



Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Reactivation of U.S. Plan of Aggression Claimed

PA0112213193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1959 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Havana, 1 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Two high-ranking military officers said in Havana today that the U.S. Government has reactivated alleged plans of aggression against Cuba. The officers declined to give further details, however.

Rear Admiral Pedro M. Prez Betancourt, chief of the Revolutionary Cuban Navy, has said that "plans for an eventual military attack against Cuba have been dusted at the Pentagon."

Brigade General Nestor Lopez Cuba, head of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR), has said that "the danger of an armed attack against Cuba remains latent; for this reason, our combat readiness remains high."

During a state television program, the two officers refrained from giving additional details on the alleged U.S. plans against Cuba, which in 1961 repelled an invasion of exiles sponsored by Washington.

The 37th anniversary of the arrival of the boat Granma will be celebrated on 2 December. That was the boat on which Fidel Castro and 81 guerrilla fighters arrived at the southern coast of Cuba to begin a guerrilla struggle that culminated with the downfall of Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship on 1 January 1959.

Roberto S. Gelbard, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs in Washington, said in July that the United States is not a threat to nor does it have any hostile intentions against Fidel Castro's government.

Nevertheless, he affirmed that the economic blockade against the island, which has been in effect for more than three decades, continues.

In an interview during the program Open Agenda, the two military officers reviewed preparations for 5 December, when regular FAR units and hundreds of thousands of militia members will participate in exercises during one of the usual national defense days.

They also announced the upcoming creation of the "Association of Cuban Revolution Fighters" (ACRC), comprised of approximately 300,000 veterans of the struggle against Batista and internationalist military campaigns in other countries.

According to official media, the goal of the ACRC, which comprises Castro's most faithful followers, is "the revolution's defense" while executing "a patriotic and internationalist education among Cuban children and young people."

Council of Ministers Official on Athletes' Defection

PA0112200593 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish
0000 GMT 1 Dec 93

["Special report" by Noel Martinez of PRENSA LATINA's Radio Division]

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president for athletic affairs in the Cuban Council of Ministers, evaluated the conduct of Cuba's athletes in Ponce and referred to those who betrayed the fatherland.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The fact, as the news media has reported, that certain athletes defected, that they betrayed the fatherland and proved themselves incapable of fulfilling their commitment to our people—thanks to whom they were able to study, train, have access to highly qualified personnel who developed their talents and taught them techniques, had sports facilities and equipment—and who, in short, failed to honorably defend the flag but instead betrayed our ideals, deserve nothing but our (?repudiation) and rejection. Those athletes owe everything to this country, and I believe their foremost duty was to defend the colors of our flag with dignity, honor, bravery, and patriotic spirit. They should have shown themselves as truly dignified children of this fatherland, which has struggled and done so much for sports.

In my opinion, the Cuban delegation's conduct has been patriotic and their morale has been high. They have proven this with the medals they have won accomplishments on the playing field. The fact that certain athletes have betrayed our ideals and principles only intensifies our acknowledgement of those who have bravely, decisively, and firmly defended our colors and will return victorious and satisfied to show us their accomplishments. [end recording]

Documentary on Castro Assassination Plots

FL0112202493 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0207 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Part Three of a three-part documentary, "ZR-Rifle (Executive Action);" incorporating historical film clips; Rolando Cubela Seades' part is read by an announcer as archival video clips and still photos are shown—recorded]

[Text] [Fidel Castro] Recently, someone was upset. He was speaking with one of our comrades who was visiting the United States and angrily protested. He said: You have said that there were 30 assassination plots. But there were not 30, there were only six plots.

Not 30, but six. In reality there were neither 30 nor six, but 300. We have to count not only the plots organized by the CIA, the acquisition of bombs or elephant rifles, a pen that shot a poisoned dart, a mask that produces who knows what fungus, and others.

[President John F. Kennedy, in English, at news conference on 22 April 1961] I feel it can be usefully said, by me, in regard to the events of the last few days [words indistinct].

[Castro, in Presidential Palace speech] It does not matter if any one of us falls; what matters is that that flag remains high, that the idea continues, and that the fatherland lives.

[Senator Christopher J. Dodd, in English with Spanish subtitles] It is likely that at the very moment President Kennedy was shot, a CIA officer was meeting with a Cuban agent in Paris and giving him an assassination device for use against Castro. I read this and, again, I am reading from the same report that we read from earlier. They are calling it an assassination device. Are we getting semantic here again?

[Former CIA Director Richard Helms, in English with Spanish subtitles] I believe it was a hypodermic syringe that they gave him with something called Black Leaf No. 40 in it. This was in response to Am-Lash's request that he be provided some sort of a device whereby he could kill Castro.

[CIA agent Rolando Cubela Secades, identified by caption] They showed me a pen with a very fine tip. The pen could be filled with poison as if it were a syringe. [pause] My resentment toward the Revolution arose in the first years after its triumph. The Communists began to occupy positions in the government and I felt cast aside. Also, several laws promulgated did not meet my political expectations and I was sure that confrontation was unavoidable. The Americans were not going to allow it. Afterwards, the divorce from the Cuban political class took place. I am referring to people such as Rio and Tony Varona, who had fought against the Batista regime and had to go into exile once more.

[Juan C. Rodriguez, Interior Ministry investigator] From 1953 on, the CIA and the FBI, from their positions in the U.S. Embassy in Havana, followed the course of events in Cuba very closely. On several occasions and through various means, they tried to infiltrate the revolutionary groups, in particular the 26 July Movement because of its energy. As the revolutionary energy grew, analysts in Langley began to seek candidates within the ranks of the Revolution who might someday be useful. Among others, they focused on a man who had distinguished himself in the fight against Batista, a power-hungry man, volatile and easily influenced. It was Commander Rolando Cubela.

[Narrator] Some of Cubela's traits the CIA considered were personal courage; constitutional ideals; egocentricity; leadership qualities, and ambitions to match; unstable and highly emotional; likes the good life in style, cabarets, parties, drinking; has excellent relations with members of the Autentico Party.

[Cubela] Pepe Aleman, the son of the education minister in the first Autentico Government, is my friend. Toward

the end of 1959, he invited me to lunch and told me of the properties he was losing because of the revolutionary laws.

[Narrator] Jose Braulio Aleman Gutierrez, alias Meneito. Son of the corrupt education minister during the government of Ramon Grau San Martin from 1944 to 1948, an FBI informant, close friend of Rolando Cubela and closely linked to Santos Trafficante, one of the top Mafia bosses of Florida.

[Cubela] Tepedino was also very upset by the path the Revolution had taken. He had a jewelry shop at the Hilton, near Trafficante's restaurant. As for Trafficante: I remember that while I was government vice minister, we jailed him in Discornia at the request of Interpol. Around that time, his daughter was getting married and several mutual friends asked me to issue him a permit so he could attend the wedding. I agreed but was only able to give him a pass for a few hours. On that occasion, Tepedino told me: See, here you do not have any authority, even if you are a commander.

[Rodriguez] Carlo Tepedino was an Italian who lived in Cuba, a friend of Trafficante and Cubela, who on occasion helped Cubela through economic difficulties. Tepedino worked for CIA officers in the U.S. Embassy in Havana.

[Cubela] It was in 1962, when I went to Paris, that I committed myself to them. They suggested organizing a military coup.

[Narrator] This fragment of a document recently declassified by the U.S. Government sheds some light: 18 January 1962: The United States' goal is to help Cubans overthrow the Communist regime in Cuba and install a new government. Basically, the operation should result in the uprising of the Cuban people.

[Rodriguez] The military coup was a part of Operation Mongoose, a project in which the CIA invested \$100 million and to which it assigned over 400 officials to work with over 3,000 Cuban agents living in Florida. The station in Florida became the most important CIA station in the world to conduct an unprecedented subversive war project. In October 1962, the October Crisis takes place, there is no invasion of Cuba, and Operation Mongoose ends without glory. A short time later, Cubela is discharged from the Army as a result of his lack of discipline; but he is still a prominent figure in Cuba and has access to the commander in chief.

[Caption: August 1963, Rolando Cubela travels to Sao Paulo, Brazil]

[Narrator] He immediately makes international calls: the first to Tepedino, the second to Neneito Aleman in Miami. He told both that he wanted to defect; they convinced him not to rush and told him to go to Paris.

[Claudia Furiatti, Brazilian writer and researcher, identified by caption] What was the Cubela plan, or Operation Am-Lash? It was to eliminate Fidel Castro, to

eliminate Fidel Castro and create conditions to destabilize the revolutionary regime in Cuba. The Cubela plan was not only linked to a operation commanded by (Mario Vastini) in Central America. [Words indistinct] trained back then groups of [word indistinct] to attack Cuba. This was to be done at a specific time, once the Cubela plan was fulfilled. That was the first part: the elimination of Fidel Castro. The Oswald plan is going on, simultaneously, to eliminate Kennedy. What was the goal? To invade Cuba, eliminate Fidel Castro, eliminate Kennedy, and invade Cuba. In other words, there are three plans.

[Narrator] In Paris, the CIA case officer contacted Cubela. According to the Church Committee report, Am-Lash, who was voluble, expressed that he would remain in Cuba; he could do something significant toward the creation of a new Cuba.

[Cubela] Although we spoke about it, the issue of the assassination was not finalized. The CIA official mentioned it. They pressured me to kill Fidel.

[Dodd, in English with Spanish subtitles] Okay, but for purposes of discussion: The officer gave this Cuban, this agent in Paris, a device with that material you described which I presume, if injected into a human being, would kill him. Is that correct?

[Helms, in English with Spanish subtitles] I would think so. Yes.

[Dodd] So the agent gives the Cuban agent the device to kill somebody.

[Helms] I am sorry he did not give him a pistol because that would have made the whole thing a lot simpler and less exotic.

[Dodd] Well, whether it is a pistol or a needle, if Am-Lash is a political plot to destabilize the government, why in blazes are we giving an agent a device that would kill Castro if it is not an assassination plot?

[Helms] Well, if you want to have it that way, why don't you just have it that way.

[Dodd] It is not a question of what I want.

[Helms] Oh, I think it is what you want, Mr. Dodd.

[Dodd] Mr. Helms, I am reading to you from reports here, prepared at your request by the Inspector General.

[Helms] I understand that.

[Dodd] I am not fabricating this. I am quoting.

[Helms] I understand that.

[Dodd] It is not a question of what I want. It is a question of what this committee would like to know and if the committee is not satisfied, I do not believe at this point as to what exactly what the characterization of Am-Lash was.

[Helms] Well, I told you what I believe the characterization of Am-Lash to be....

[Dodd] Well, how does that jibe with this?

[Helms] If you want to....[pauses] If, because we gave him a gun or a hypodermic syringe, or whatever the case might be at his request because he had aims on Castro, if that is your definition of an assassination plot, then have it that way. That is quite satisfactory with me.

[Furiatti] New Orleans at that time represents a confrontation with Kennedy's policies and the far Right is behind them because in August alone and [words indistinct] when Kennedy tells the FBI finally to go to [word indistinct] and this camp is put under vigilance, the far Right, which was behind it, decides that Kennedy ultimately is not going to accept that parallel operation. Then what does New Orleans mean? A direct confrontation against Kennedy.

[Cubela] In Paris I met another CIA case officer and I asked for military supplies and a meeting with Robert Kennedy.

[Narrator] Richard Helms, CIA deputy director for operations, authorized Desmond Fitzgerald, chief of the special affairs team who managed the entire anti-Cuban operation, to meet with Am-Lash as Kennedy's envoy. [Footage of Helms] Am-Lash believed the lie.

[Cubela] The Kennedy envoy gave me assurances that the United States would support a coup against Fidel; then we talked in detail about how to assassinate him. [Still shot of Robert Kennedy]

[Narrator] Following Kennedy's assassination, Cubela returns to Havana without the fountain pen. He had thrown it into the Seine River.

[Cubela] I had asked for a FAL rifle with a scope and silencer. That would be enough for my task. The CIA promised to get it for me.

[Juan Felaifel, Cuban agent, identified by caption as having infiltrated CIA from 1963 to 1966, in archive film clip] I was told of this plan by CIA agent Anis, my brother, who at the time was also the intelligence chief of the counterrevolutionary organization directed by Artime. He, with Artime and the Galician Sainz, made the silencer for the 7.62 FAL rifle, identical to the one Cubela had here in Cuba.

[Narrator] Upon his arrival in Havana, Cubela realizes that he had overestimated his possibilities. He was not able to recruit any men within the Cuban Armed Forces.

[Felaifel, present day footage] Cubela had the assassination planned and had planned to conduct it from an apartment in a building located practically in front of the steps of the university. Based on this attempt, they had a plan drafted by Cubela, the Galician Sainz, and Artime in a meeting in a hotel in Spain. The plan had two phases. Following the assassination, in case there was no

immediate supporting coup, they were planning to start an uprising in the Escambray with the support of approximately 1,000 mercenaries Arttime had in Central America. They were planning to bring them through Punta Icaos, dividing the road and establishing there a beachhead in order to create a government supported and approved by the Organization of American States. To that end, Arttime had already contacted several Central American governments, four or five Latin American governments that were going to support them. Now the time came to put together the final information and this is when we discovered the entire plan of the attempt, which we were able to dismantle practically before it was conducted.

[Narrator] On 26 February 1966 Rolando Cubela and his accomplices were arrested. The rifle and the telescopic scope are today museum pieces. [footage of Kennedy's funeral, stills]

Millions of American saw the Dallas assassination, thanks to an amateur cameraman, Abraham Zapruder. Many may have thought that it was another violent TV program, but it was real. They had destroyed the affable smile and the cordial greeting of the charismatic and reformist John Fitzgerald Kennedy. [footage of Kennedy's assassination]

[Senator Dodd, in English with Spanish subtitles] It is likely that at the very moment President Kennedy was shot, a CIA officer was meeting with a Cuban agent in Paris and giving him an assassination device for use against Castro.

[Narrator] A simple coincidence, or was it a trap linking plots for the assassination of two presidents?

As in a thriller, the already shaken American sensibility witnesses on TV the murder of the prime suspect, despite his being guarded by more than 70 policemen.

President Kennedy was buried with appropriate honors. On his tomb, an eternal flame at times scrawls capricious question marks. Who, and why?

Following the failure of various homicidal plots against the Cuban president, the CIA and its associates started another project to force the hand of the Kennedy administration: An aerial expedition would depart from Florida [words indistinct] later to bomb Havana's Presidential Palace and Castro's residence in Cojimar. Simultaneously, an autoprovoction at Guantanamo Naval Base was to take place. [footage of U.S. military exercises, stills]

The autoprovoction would be justified: The Cubans were attacking the base in response to the assassination of their president.

But why did the CIA, Mafia, and counterrevolution machinery want to force the hand of the Kennedy administration?

[Graciela Challaïoux, researcher at the Center for U.S. Studies, Havana University, identified by caption] The fact that the policy conceived within the broader framework of a flexible response could lead one to think that the U.S. President's policy was ambivalent and contradictory. However, if we examine the different aspects of this policy, we realize that it was perfectly in keeping with the strategic objective of destroying the Cuban Revolution.

Under that policy, it was considered necessary to intensify the economic blockade of Cuba and the political pressure against the island. Another group of measures had to do with the sabotage of important sectors of the economy: electric power, oil refining and storage, rail and highway transportation, and also production on the island. [footage of results of sabotage]

As a third point of this policy, diplomatic actions were also contemplated, sending the Cuban authorities, especially Fidel Castro, a message about President Kennedy's interest in talking, in establishing a negotiation agenda for solving the conflict between the two countries. However, the establishment of an agenda for negotiations was based on the premise that Fidel Castro would be forced to make essential concessions because the results of the policy of sabotage, political pressures, and economic blockade were going to put him at a disadvantage, and he was then going to have to accept U.S. demands.

However, it happened that the President then had to confront the objections of the U.S. Establishment [previous word in English], the real power in the United States, to a policy that, in the midst of a Cold War climate, rejected the use of the violent operations that the United States had traditionally conducted against any country that contradicted its interests. It was not only the problem of a policy toward Cuba that did not seem the most appropriate; in addition, there were the objections of the Establishment to Kennedy's domestic policies and U.S.-USSR relations.

[Narrator] Racial integration; anti-Mafia policies; restrictions on monopolies; differences with the military-industrial complex; friction with traditionally privileged investor sectors; the U.S.-USSR accord; and the projected withdrawal of the Vietnamese plot placed Kennedy in confrontation with what President Eisenhower had envisioned years before.

[President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in English with Spanish subtitles] We must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes.

[Narrator] Among domestic contradictions, he inherited the so-called Cuban problem.

Early this morning, Doctor Jose Miro Cardona announced in a communique his resignation from the presidency of the Cuban Revolutionary Council in exile.

In his communique, Miro practically accuses President Kennedy's administration of treason to the cause of the anti-Castro sector. [footage of Miro's resignation speech in Miami in April 1963]

The policy of the U.S. Government has changed abruptly, violently, and unexpectedly in a dangerous manner, as during the sad occasion of the Bay of Pigs, without the slightest reasonable explanation.

[Unseen interviewer, in English with Spanish subtitles] Did you resent the United States and President Kennedy?

[CIA Agent Armando Lopez Estrada, in English with Spanish subtitles] At the time, yes, I highly resented it.

[Interviewer] Did you tell him?

[Lopez] Yes, I did because I wanted to know why we were abandoned inside Cuba.

[Narrator] The differences with the far right in exile and the terrorists reached its peak.

[Rodriguez] The Cuban counterrevolution, by unconditionally serving the CIA and the U.S. Government, tried to gain political ground from which to pressure the President to implement an immediate and drastic solution to the Cuban Revolution. At the same time, the Mafia was anxious to reclaim the juicy business of its emporium in Havana. When both realized that the policy of the Democratic administration, the dual solution, was to destroy the Revolution but not in the short term, among other reasons because they were not able to, then the two groups claimed that they had been betrayed.

Allow me to say that we have an example of this in (Bob's) attitude. He was a top level leader of the CIA's Miami operations unit. Of Sicilian ancestry, his way of talking was even very similar to that of the Mafia people. While at the safe house together with the team which I had infiltrated, and watching television at the moment the assassination occurred, in an outburst of passion such as we ourselves had never seen—because his temperament was not like that—he could not contain himself and said: We have finally eliminated the pinko from the White House.

[Narrator] It is really surprising that those who investigated the Dallas assassination gave such little credence to the report of an FBI agent like Jose Aleman. However, there is one explanation.

[Rodriguez] Days after the murder of the U.S. President, an FBI agent of Cuban origin, Jose Aleman, son of an old political intriguer and thief in Cuba before 1959, confessed to his FBI case officer that in June of that same year, 1963—that is, five months before the murder of the President—Trafficante, who was his friend, had confessed to him that Kennedy would get what was coming to him.

He was referring, of course, to the harassment and the persecution to which the Democratic administration had subjected the Mafia, and to what the Mafia considered the President's weakness in the Cuban matter.

There is no doubt as to Jose Aleman's ties with the CIA and the FBI. Aleman was a friend of Cubela, and facilitated or was involved in recruiting him. Moreover, Aleman was the man who supplied the bombs with which they planned to attack the Presidential Palace and the house in Cojimar where they assumed that the commander in chief was staying.

[Division General Fabian Escalante Font, Cuban Interior Ministry; identified by caption] In the spring of 1963, in Hugh Bannister's offices in New Orleans, where the splinter group Friends of Democratic Cuba was based, a momentous meeting took place. There, the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy was planned.

[Narrator] In order to achieve it, they needed a man with a past to accuse of having pulled the trigger and who could lead to blaming Fidel Castro.

[Rodriguez] Lee Harvey Oswald was recruited by the Navy's intelligence services while he was in the Navy, with a view to his carrying out a mission in the Soviet Union. [stills of Oswald] In order to put him into the sights, into the sphere of interests, of the KGB they assigned him to the Atsugi military base in Japan, as a radar operator on one of the projects of the most secret U.S. technical intelligence of the time: the project for the U-2 spy flights over Soviet territory.

Shortly after that, in 1959, he is transferred to the El Toro base in California—also belonging to the Navy—where he learns Russian; and in October of that same year, he travels to the Soviet Union...[pauses] he is hastily discharged, and travels to the Soviet Union as a tourist. And shortly afterward, in a gesture of apparent identification with the Soviets, with Socialist ideas, he tears up his passport. He practically exiles himself, there. He marries a Soviet citizen, Marina Pruskaya and has a daughter. And in 1962, he returns to the United States with a new passport and with his fare paid for by the Department of State.

[Narrator] The past, in the Oswald legend, was already constructed. Now all that had to be done was to bring it up to date in pro-Castro terms.

[Furiatti] When he goes back to his country, another phase begins, and the first part of that phase is New Orleans, May-August 1963. Oswald shows up there with a cover: a Cuban sympathizer who distributes pro-Cuba leaflets in the street. He gets in a quarrel with the leader of a counterrevolutionary organization, Carlos Bringuier, who was the leader of the (DRE) in New Orleans.

[Rodriguez] He then works as an FBI agent, number 179, with a salary of \$200, until the spring of 1963.

[Narrator] In the spring of 1963, Oswald visits exiled Cuban (Sylvia Odio) in Dallas. The purpose of the visit—which he is not aware of—is to find a witness who will be able to identify him later, after the assassination. [stills of Oswald and (Novo Saint-Paul) brothers] He is accompanied by two Cubans, brothers (Ignacio and Guillermo Novo Saint-Paul); who, taking advantage of the fact that Oswald does not know Spanish, introduce him as Leon Oswald, a former Marine and expert sharpshooter who affirmed that Cuba could be freed by killing Kennedy.

[Rodriguez] In 1978, (Antonio Veciana), a former CIA agent involved in several assassination attempts against the commander in chief, such as, remember, the one involving the north terrace at the Presidential Palace, the one in Chile, told a U.S. Government investigator, (Gaeton Foncy), that in the first week of September of 1963 he went to a rendezvous for a meeting with the CIA case officer who had been working with him for the past 20 years and who operated under the pseudonym of Maurice Bishop.

The meeting took place in a public building in Dallas, and upon arriving in the lobby of the building, he immediately saw his case officer, Bishop, with a pale, bland-faced young man. Two and a half months later, from the pictures in the press and over television, he recognized Lee Harvey Oswald as having been the man he had seen talking to his case officer Maurice Bishop.

Actually, that was not the way things really were. The said encounter was not a casual one. No CIA officer, no professional intelligence officer arranges a rendezvous for two agents for the same place at the same time. According to our investigations, the truth of the matter was that at that meeting, Oswald, (Veciana), and his case officer Bishop were to arrange details related to Oswald's trip to Mexico, which was to take place weeks later and in which (Veciana) was involved.

Maurice Bishop was the CIA case officer for the anti-Cuba groups in Mexico.

[Major Nicolas Sirgado, identified by caption as having infiltrated the CIA for 10 years] It was precisely in the last quarter of 1967 that Harold Benson and I met. Back then, in London, he introduced himself as a CIA case officer, although certain bits of information coming from his own colleagues already indicated the prominence of the high position he held. Over time...[pauses] then I did not see him for quite a long time, and after the case on which we worked together was over, certain Cuban counter-intelligence officials showed me pictures of U.S. CIA officers and chiefs, so I could try to pick Harold Benson out from among them. It was not difficult, of course, from the pictures I saw to select, to find, Harold Benson's. Except that in this case, it just so happened that the name under the photograph in question was: David Atlee Phillips.

[Furiatti] Mexico is decisive. The Mexico episode is decisive. As of that time, Oswald is already the man who has been chosen to be accused of the assassination of Kennedy.

What was Oswald doing in Mexico, monitored by David Phillips, who was the head of the CIA in Mexico back then? He was there to obtain a transit visa at the Cuban Embassy, for the Soviet Union. But he did not obtain the visa, and that was his big mistake—because he was instructed to be convincing, and he was not.

[Sirgado] I remember that during the time that Harold Benson and I worked together, a number of aspects of his background, of his character, began emerging. He was extraordinarily reactionary. And I recall, as something that could serve as an example of all this, the anecdote he told me to the effect that on the occasion of a visit he made to Arlington Cemetery to visit former President John F. Kennedy's tomb, he had seized the opportunity to urinate on Kennedy's grave, since he considered Kennedy a damned Communist.

[Narrator] A pro-Castro activist and a furious enemy of the pinko in the White House, all that remained for the chosen scapegoat Oswald to do was to obtain evidence of the complicity of the Cuban Government. Marina Pruskaya told the Warren Commission that her husband Lee Harvey Oswald had not wished to travel to the Soviet Union but rather to Havana.

[Rodriguez] One of the key pieces in the plot to blame the Cuban Government for the killing was Oswald's visit to Havana—undoubtedly, a well-thought-out maneuver. For that reason, between 25 and 26 September 1963, Oswald appeared at the Cuban consulate three times, asking for a visa. Four people saw him there: the consul, Eusebio Azcue; the vice-consul, Mirabal; the Mexican secretary, Sylvia Duran; and the trade attache, Guillermo Ruiz, who on one occasion even served as a translator for Oswald.

[Guillermo Ruiz, identified by caption as the trade attache in Mexico in 1963] Sometime in late September, as I was entering the trade office which was upstairs in the consulate, the consul asked me to help him translate for a man, an American, with whom he was talking at that moment.

The consul told that American that it was not possible to give him a visa because it was not known...[pauses] not possible to give him a visa to transit through Cuba, because his final destination was not known; and that, therefore, the consul was refusing to give him a visa. After telling the American this, I went up to the trade office to go about my business. Later, after President Kennedy's assassination, I learned that this man for whom I had translated the consul's words was Lee Harvey Oswald.

[Escalante] Oswald filled out an application form at our consulate and gave us six photographs. [stills of visa application] Cuba gave copies of these photos to the

Warren Commission and to the committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. The signature on the application form is Oswald's, and the pictures were also of Oswald.

All our embassies are watched by the CIA, and Mexico was no exception. From a building in front of our embassy, CIA agent Alberto Rodriguez Gallego photographed everybody who entered and exited our embassy. [stills of Cuban consulate in Mexico] How did it come to be possible, if Oswald was there on three occasions on different days, for him not to have gotten his picture taken? There is only one explanation: With the failure of the plan [words indistinct].

[Narrator] Weeks before the presidential assassination in Dallas, the U.S. police authorities had sufficient evidence of what was being prepared. Two signs, one from Miami and another from Chicago:

[Castro; caption reads: Havana, 24 November 1963] The Associated Press on the 19th of this month, three days before the assassination of Kennedy, from Miami Beach, in reference to this man said: This man....[pauses] The editor of the confiscated Havana daily said: I believe that a looming and grave event will force Washington to modify its policy of peaceful coexistence.

What is the meaning of this three days before the assassination of Kennedy?

[Narrator] The Secret Service, which was in charge of Kennedy's security, learned on 21 November that in the city of Chicago, a Cuban named Homero S. Echevarria who was in contact with a group of arms traffickers had said that his group had a great deal of money and that they were going to buy the arms after they took care of the Kennedy thing.

[Video shows the following telegram over still of Kennedy: "11-17-63. URGENT

"TO: SPECIAL AGENTS

"FROM: FBI DIRECTOR "...INFORMATION RECEIVED REVEALS THAT A GROUP MIGHT ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY DURING HIS TRIP TO DALLAS. "CONTACT HOSTILE GROUPS AND FIND OUT ANY GROUNDS FOR THREAT."

[Narrator] After Oswald's failure in Mexico, the CIA fabricated some letters addressed to him from Havana in which, in a conventional manner, guidance regarding the assassination of President Kennedy was given. The purpose was so that they could seize the letters from Oswald following the presidential assassination, thus obtaining the so-eagerly-desired incriminating evidence.

[Video shows highlighted portion of text of typed letter, in Spanish:

["AFTER THIS THING I WILL RECOMMEND YOU TO THE BOSS, WHO WILL BE INTERESTED IN MEETING YOU SINCE THEY NEED MEN LIKE YOU. I TOLD HIM YOU CAN SHOOT OUT A

CANDLE'S FLAME AT A DISTANCE OF 50 METERS. HE REFUSES TO BELIEVE ME BUT I CONVINCED HIM BECAUSE I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES".]

[Escalante] The homicidal mechanism was in place on 22 November 1963. In reality, it was a conspiracy of national proportions, in which many knew what was going to happen, while others were in charge of pulling the trigger. The idea was cooked up at the top levels of the so-called invisible government: transnationals, the military industrial complex, the Pentagon, the Ku Klux Klan, Texan oil barons, the Mafia, the CIA, the FBI, and the Cuban counterrevolution. Its highest representatives were: [Video shows sequence of stills identified by caption as: Richard Nixon, George Bush, Allen Dulles, Tony Varona, Richard Bissell, Sam Giancana, Richard Helms, Santos Trafficante, and Carlos Prio]

The planners were the same people who met in 1963 in Hugh Bannister's New Orleans office [over stills]: John Rosselli, Frank Sturges, Gary Yen, General Cavell, David Phillips, Howard Hunt, Clyde Chow, and Robert Mayhew.

Two groups were in charge of coordinating the presidential murder: one consisting of Jack Ruby, while the other was directed by Frank Sturges and made up of Orlando Bosch, Jose Berman, brothers (Ignacio and Guillermo Novo Saint-Paul), and (Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz)—all CIA agents.

According to the investigations carried out, there were some four or five shots fired in Dallas on 22 November 1963 from several different positions. According to our investigations, the participants in the shooting were: Lenny Patrick, David Yaras, and Richard Gaines, all members of the Chicago Mafia, and Eladio del Valle Gutierrez and Herminio Diaz Garcia, Cubans and CIA agents.

[Castro; caption reads: Havana, 24 November 1963] We are not worried for our sake. We worry for more than ourselves. We worry for the interests of mankind.

[Narrator] ZR-Rifle, the CIA, the Mafia, and the counterrevolutionary machinery whose main target was Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, against whom they prepared hundreds of homicidal plots, ended up shooting the heart of the American nation.

Military Officials Discuss FAR Activities

FL0112191993 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Dec 93

["Open Agenda" program with host Antonio Resillez and guests Rear Admiral Pedro Perez Betancourt, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], and chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Army; and Brigadier General Nestor Lopez Cuba, chief of the FAR political directorate—live]

[Text] [Resillez] Tonight, 48 hours away from the 37th anniversary of the landing of the Granma, and FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] Day, we will discuss (?a number of) military topics, as has been announced by the press. Appearing are Central Committee members Rear Admiral Pedro Perez Betancourt, vice minister of the FAR and head of the Navy; and Brigadier General Nestor Lopez Cuba, head of the FAR political directorate.

Admiral, we would like to get directly to the topic of interest. Our military commands, and also military specialists, assure us that our Armed Forces are maintaining as great a combat capability as we need, and one that is in keeping with the times in which we live, despite, I would say, the impact that the special period is having on our society. So I would like for you to tell us (?on what basis) this claim is made.

[Perez] Well, Comrade Resillez, the special period undoubtedly had an impact, at the beginning, but an impact that was (?diminished) because it had been planned for in advance. Truly, the FAR Ministry's intelligence lay, precisely, in making these assessments sufficiently in advance; and (?it was done in such a way) that we learned that there existed measures for a special period in wartime. And therefore, when the double blockade came about, at that moment, when the special period in peacetime began to be introduced...[pauses] it was definitely during the Reagan administration, approximately 1980-88; that is, precisely in the middle of that decade, when the special period in peacetime was introduced, the measures—the whole package of basic measures—had already been drawn up. And people had even been trained. And what's more, we had even already worked on a number of options [words indistinct] Option Zero.

Indisputably, those indicators [words indistinct] are now important, the ones I want to mention next.

[Resillez] Yes.

[Perez] In the first place, we have very high indicators in terms of equipment this year, precisely, 1993. In this year, which is also a special period year. Higher in 1993 than earlier years. That is an important element.

As I also said, we have important indicators [words indistinct] of more than 300,000 internationalist combatants. In one way or another, these combatants have also faced their baptism of fire. We have military commanders with more than 30 years experience in leading our soldiers here in Cuba. They supervise the training exercises and maneuvers. These commanders have led our armed forces in successful campaigns. All this is important.

There are also important signs of our combat readiness like our technical and material independence. We also have enough food to feed the soldiers. Perhaps sometime during this program we may be able to talk about the

food program we have. The food program is aimed at satisfying the needs of our units.

This is a very important collection of indicators, we could add that these are strategic indicators, and they follow the guidelines of [words indistinct] for a more efficient armed forces. Our goal is to achieve more with less. That is where the success lies. Our success depends on maintaining our military preparedness, on the mobilization of our conventional troops and our Territorial Troops Militia [MTT]. These are important indicators.

As a matter of fact, on 24 November, the same day that the torrential rains fell over Guantanamo Province, we were conducting a surprise inspection of the area. We arrived there at 0340 and witnessed high military preparedness at the Guantanamo General Staff. At that hour they had already activated the provincial and municipal general staff and measures were being adopted to solve the evacuation problems and prevent worse problems. We could see that the Guantanamo General Staff, as the rest of the general staffs throughout the country, has a high military preparedness. That is a sign that [words indistinct] the enemy. I believe these are important things to keep in mind.

[Resillez] Rear Admiral, the basic technical needs of our armed forces are among the top priorities. Have these been affected by the special period?

[Perez] The technical needs [words indistinct]. The technical indicators are above the technical indicators of previous years. Even though we are experiencing a special period, our combatants have much initiative and have taken many measures to ensure that the problem is solved. It is very encouraging to visit various sites and see how they solve their problems. Very encouraging.

[Resillez] However, in a decisive year as this one, I believe there are other issues that are distinctive of the FAR. Rear Adm. Perez, what can you tell us about this?

[Perez] About what?

[Resillez] Activities distinctive of the FAR.

[Perez] This year we are working to ensure that the guidelines established [words indistinct]. We are working to perfect the organization of the FAR.

[Resillez] I see.

[Perez] This is a very important task. When the FAR minister was interviewed by Mexican journalist Vasquez Rana, he expanded on these tasks. He also talked about why certain measures were adopted. The FAR minister said that as we perfect the structure of the FAR, we also protect and increase the possibility of [words indistinct]. It is very interesting to see how, with intelligence, we have been able to do this and increase [words indistinct].

There are also other activities we are promoting. One of them is training of personnel. This is very important. Despite limited resources, we have been able to maintain

the level of preparedness of our personnel. We have sought different ways to do things and we have done this thanks to the initiative of our leaders. We have seen very good results. An example of this is the recent maneuver held in Camaguey. We got outstanding results in target practice firing from tanks. There are also interesting plans for preparing in [words indistinct] military operations. This is something that has been covered by television.

[Resillez] Yes I saw it. It was covered during a newscast.

[Perez] [Words indistinct] protection and the [word indistinct] tunnels. That was one of the measures. There is also a very important plan. The FAR minister is teaching us and helping us implement the plan. On several occasions he has said that beans are more important than cannons. Comrade Resillez, this is the food plan. This plan is aimed at [words indistinct] needs of our soldiers. The 18-year-old, the 20-year-old soldier needs much food. This plan is not only aimed at the armed forces. There are many things we need that we cannot provide for ourselves. For example, salt and sugar. But we are working hard to [words indistinct]. This plan is also aimed at helping the country's economy.

Today, before leaving my office I received a special VERDE OLIVO bulletin. The bulletin is on the 40th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks campaign which was launched in Havana Province. Let me read what it says: Ready for a new mission. The powder is dry and the weapons ready for combat. It continues to tell us that [words indistinct] more than 9 million pesos and 14,159 men in the countryside. It is very interesting where the FAR is headed. It is headed toward solving social problems confronted by the people. [Words indistinct] more than 30 schools, day care centers, family doctors homes, and old folks homes. The FAR is projecting an image of brotherhood and union between the soldier and the civilian. This is something very important.

The FAR minister tells us every time he can that: We have the largest and cheapest armed forces in Latin America.

[Resillez] That is very true. Thank you Rear Adm. Perez.

Gen. Lopez Cuba, on Tuesday, 7 December, the [words indistinct] veterans of the Cuban revolution. Our people have been informed of this. We have heard it on the radio and television. What steps must be taken before the process is completed?

[Lopez] On 7 December the national directorate elected on 5 December at the FAR [words indistinct] will be presented to the public thus concluding a long and very serious process of formation of a Veteran's Association. The association will have more than 300,000 members, all veterans of the Cuban revolution. The organization of

the association began in June 1993 and in record time, in less than five months, the large association of combatants was organized.

As I have already said, we began organizing the rank and file at the bases, the municipalities, and then throughout the provinces. On 5 December we will hold our national conference and on 7 December in (?El Cacahual), during an event to honor [words indistinct], the national directorate will be presented. This will be our first big activity. As you know, organizing the association was difficult; however, the more difficult tasks lie ahead. The association incorporates generations of combatants. Everyone who was present at the Moncada, Granma, Sierra Maestra, the struggle against [word indistinct], Giron, and most recently the internationalists, are members of the association.

[Resillez] Regarding what lies ahead, I would like to briefly broach two aspects I believe would be of interest to the people. What will the association do? What will be the basic duties of the association once it has been formally created?

[Lopez] I do believe it is necessary to clarify that even though it is a strong organization, we do not want it to be just another organization. This is why we believe it is important. The main goal of the organization is the unconditional defense of the revolution. It will also strengthen the defense capacity of our people based on [words indistinct] war of all the people. In addition, the association will also have very important tasks such our people's internationalist patriotic and military education, in particular, the education of our youths and children.

The association will also work toward uniting the three generations. We have been very lucky. Between the 1895 war, our last war of independence that resulted in a U.S. intervention foiling our attempts to win the war, and 1950 we had no wars. However, the last three generations of combatants were present in the Sierra Maestra, Moncada, and Granma. Therefore, the most important task is to unite those three generations. [5-second break in reception].

[Resillez] other institutions and organizations already exist in the country. How will this take place?

[Lopez] We do not want this organization to replace what we already have. The existent organizations, like the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Federation of Cuban Women, the Union of Young Communists, the people's assemblies, the party, have a beautiful and rich combat past. All we seek is for our members to be the vanguards; to be in every trench, in every front line in defense of the revolution. We do not wish to replace the already existent organizations; we seek to strengthen them.

[Resillez] Thank you general.

Rear Adm. Perez, 5 December is National Defense Day. I want to ask you a question and I do not think we would be risking anything by hearing the answer. How many Cubans will be participating in the war of all the people training exercises? Do you have an idea?

[Perez] A rough estimate?

[Resillez] Yes.

[Perez] We believe that most of the Cuban people [16-second loss of reception due to station interference]. It would be good to recall that we are now marking the ninth anniversary of National Defense Day. On 2 December 1984 we celebrated our first National Defense Day. On that day all the defense zones throughout the area, 1,400 defense zones throughout the country, were formed.

The conventional troops, the MTT, the Federation of Secondary School Students [FEEM], the pioneers, and some other groups will be participating in production tasks. This year, in addition to the national conference of [10-second break in reception]. That is something special we will be doing this year. To give you exact figures is difficult. It could be 3 million, 2.5 million people throughout the country. The events have been organized at territorial, provincial, and defense zone levels. We could say that many Cubans will participate. How many? We will know that after Sunday.

[Resillez] Is the nature of this National Defense Day similar to that of other National Defense Days?

[Perez] There are two important differences because we will now support the agricultural tasks. We are going to support the agricultural tasks. We are going to [12-second break in reception]

[Resillez] Rear Adm. Perez, people are calling in and asking questions. There is one question I believe is very important. You and Gen. Lopez talked about this before the program began. You mentioned the Science and Technology Forum. You talked about the tremendous possibilities that the FAR has to create and contribute. Now it is involved in the forum. A comrade from Holguin, a colleague and reporter from Holguin, wants to know what the FAR is doing within the forum movement.

[Perez] It is a very interesting movement. We could say that it is the key to how we have developed our programs and to how we maintain our military preparedness. These are very important elements. We have more than 170,000 works to be presented at the forum. We have been able to encourage participation among the combatants. Many are participating. We have units in which 100 percent of the officers, engineers, and combatants have participated in the eighth forum. There is something very interesting, Resillez. A man feels more important when he solves a problem. A man feels more efficient when he solves a problem. As Cubans, as Latin Americans, we know that we can always do things better.

We say it and this makes us feel more important. This has been great in solving a large number of technical problems and problems in the training and preparedness of our personnel.

[Resillez] From what I heard Gen. Lopez say, many of these solutions surpass the boundaries of the FAR and project themselves quite positively on the people. [Words indistinct] needs of our people.

This week, 2 December to be precise, marks the 30th anniversary since the party became active within the FAR. I would like to know how the FAR leadership feels about what the party has done, especially in this year which has been so important for the revolution?

[Lopez] To tell you of all that the party has done within the FAR in one year would be difficult. The party has had 30 years of experience within the FAR. There is no doubt that all this we were talking about, the Veteran's Association with more than 300,000 internationalist combatants and Sierra Maestra combatants, is the result of the party's political and ideological work throughout these 30 years of efforts and struggles. We are also marking the 30th anniversary since the establishment of military service in the country. We have seen 1.5 million soldiers pass through the FAR, and we have contributed more than [words indistinct]. There is no doubt that this is the result of the tremendous work carried out by the party throughout these 30 years. [Words indistinct] I want to say that this year we have reported growth within the party of 15 percent. In other words, the number is greater than that of past years. I could also add that this is the year when most youths have joined the party.

[Resillez] Thank you general.

Rear Adm. Perez, in conclusion, have you, for a single minute, ever considered the possibility that the enemy will attack our country before the end of this century?

[Perez] This century?

[Resillez] This century.

[Perez] Yes I have. A question like that immediately brings an answer to mind. We must prepare. We must prepare. We must prepare. Grenada and Panama come to mind. Giron, the victorious Giron, comes to mind. We were attacked in Giron.

Resillez, we know, we are sure that the imperialists have plans for such an attack at the Pentagon. They have probably dusted off the plans as well. We are sure that their policy, their [words indistinct] intentions of destroying the Cuban revolution. We agree with our commander in chief when he says that we must be prepared to repel an attack at any time. He has always told us that it is better to be over cautious. Every time our FAR minister has a chance—in the classroom, at meetings, and everywhere—he is constantly reminding us that we must prepare to avoid war. It is an important concept. We must prepare to avoid war because the only way we have to avoid war is being prepared for it.

Avoiding a war is the same as winning a war. In the past 30 years we have been able to avoid a war because we are prepared to wage a war. We have been able to avoid an attack because our soldiers and our people are prepared. The people and the FAR are as tight as a fist and we beat like one heart. That is the pride of being Cuban, of being worthy. That high honor of [words indistinct] wherever we may be, those looks of respect and admiration is the most important thing we have. We must protect this. We cannot let our guard down. [Words indistinct] being prepared has guaranteed us the survival of the revolution. It has prevented all attacks. That is my answer. I feel this in my heart.

[Resillez] Thank you Rear Adm. Perez Betancourt, thank you Gen. Lopez Cuba for being on this "Open Agenda" program and for informing the people. Allow me, on behalf of our crew, to humbly congratulate all the members of the FAR on the anniversary of the armed forces.

To you, viewers and friends, good night; see you next Tuesday.

Havana Radio Reports on AIDS, HIV Cases

FL0112213293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Interview with Dr. Jorge Perez, director of Santiago de las Vegas Sanatorium and deputy director of medical care at Pedro Curie Institute, by Roberto Cavada; date not given; all figures as heard—recorded]

[Text] [Cavada] Doctor, I think it would be good to give the current number of cases.

[Perez] Currently, we have 979 patients who have tested positive for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus [HIV] in Cuba; of these, 71 percent are males, and 29 percent females. Of this group of patients, 230 have developed Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome [AIDS] since 1986; of these 230 patients, 144 have died.

[Cavada] We have been told, and other sources we have consulted have told us, that there are only slightly over 80 patients in Cuba right now.

[Perez] Yes. If you subtract the 145 deaths from the 230 AIDS cases, the result is exactly 83 patients. That is the number alive today.

In Cuba, the number of HIV infections to date is 85. The main goal of the Cuban program is to identify people before they become ill. This is in contrast with other programs in the world that identify individuals after they have already become ill or when they go to the hospital, or by chance.

The goal of the Cuban program is to detect cases as early as possible to give counseling and also to do preventive work so that this disease does not spread. This is the reason our figures are much smaller than those of other countries. We never have had an unchecked geometric

growth of this infection. We have had a small mathematical growth in the number of cases since 1987. In 1986 we detected a number of cases accumulated from prior years.

Haiti

Prime Minister Malval Addresses Nation

FL0112225493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole 1900 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Robert Malval in Port-au-Prince on 1 December—recorded, in French, passages in quotation marks in Creole]

[Text] Dear fellow citizens: Appointed under the terms of the Governors Island accord between President Aristide and General Raoul Cedras, my government was required to do everything possible to facilitate the application of the accord that would have resulted in the return to the country of President Aristide on 30 October 1993. One will [word indistinct] for a long time in order to determine who is right and who is wrong. We are not here to try anyone. We are here to affirm that our country is in a situation of total peril. From my nomination until today, the principal concern has been to offer a hand to all sectors in our society toward the creation of the atmosphere of concord that the political forces recommended in signing the New York pact.

The country has witnessed our multiple efforts to carry to a successful conclusion our mission, which the supporters of the status quo did everything to prevent. They opposed with political violence our good faith in promoting a cooperation that would take into account our differences and divergences. They overlooked nothing that could prevent the constitutional government from effectively taking office and controlling the state machinery. Executive agencies, without openly saying so, refused to cooperate in the task of appeasement indispensable to the concrete implementation of the points of the Governors Island accord. In response to our offer of cooperation, we received confrontation when it was urgent that all of us, as Haitians, put the country's interests above our personal interests in order to move change forward. Instead of taking effective steps to seize the opportunities that would have been offered to the country after the lifting of the sanctions, many did not know how to relinquish their own ambition in order to give a chance to our country, which is breaking apart and is exposed to all dangers.

Thus began a boycott of the accord, through the prevention of the fulfillment of its steps. Blow by blow, deadlines passed as what was planned never came about. This process continued through 30 October without the chief of state's being able to return as planned. Since then the crisis, which one had hoped would be resolved under the terms of the Governors Island accord, has endured.

Haitian women and men, it was within this framework that the Government of the Republic undertook the initiative of consulting with various sectors of the national social and economic life in the hope of discovering, with them, some leads toward solution of the crisis. My government's concern for preserving the national interest was translated into that action. Those exchanges allowed us to appreciate the concerns of many of our interlocutors and had the merit of fortifying us, more than ever, in our position, which is and will continue to be one of dialogue and meeting in the hope of solving the crisis.

We want publicly to thank those personalities—legislators, representatives of the private sector, and members of socioprofessional organizations, labor unions, political parties, and human rights groups—who chose to respond to our invitation.

Haitian women and men, our country is at a crossroads and at the intersection of all perils. Such an acknowledgement is tragic and, at the same time, hopeful as long as we can reach the necessary political consensus to emerge from deadlock.

Dear fellow citizens, we are facing a crisis without precedent in our entire history. It is not only political; it is also economic and moral. Today, this crisis is questioning the foundations of our society. It is therefore urgent that I share with you the seriousness of the situation.

As a matter of fact, the public treasury deficit for the month from mid-October to mid-November 1993 is 6.4 million gourdes, financed by the Bank of the Republic of Haiti. By the end of the month, after the payment of October salaries in arrears, increased credit to the state is planned.

"After we received credit from the Central Bank, we were able to pay state employees. We do not control state revenues. We tried to limit expenses. That is all we were able to do because we are dependent on the figures they give us, which we are unable to control."

Revenues are not improving: The deficit will rise to over 15 million gourdes by December because the level of revenue reported has not improved during the first three weeks of November.

"You all know that we had some strikes—forced strikes, fuel problems, all sorts of problems that contributed to a slowdown of the economy."

From 1 to 22 November, fiscal revenue was 49 million gourdes, which projects to revenues from now to the end of the month of not more than 60 million gourdes; during the same period from 1 to 22 November, 38 million gourdes were spent on salaries and 10 million on public administration. According to all estimates, expenses will go up to 62 million gourdes by the end of this month.

"Thus we will have an acute deficit by the end of November and we do not know what December will bring."

The prices of basic goods took a breathtaking rise by the third week of October. The prices of rice, beans, corn, and millet increased by 20 percent, according to our calculations. In some regions, prices increased by more than 20 percent; but that is the official figure they gave.

"When I talk with people who are forced to buy every day, I do not believe that we have had only a 20-percent rise. Since that is the figure we received from official sources, we have to use it. But from what I have heard from the mouths of the poor people who go to the public market, we are beyond a 20-percent increase."

Currently a pot [local measure] of rice costs 20 gourdes; beans, 45 gourdes; ground corn, 15 gourdes; millet, 13.75 gourdes; and white sugar, 25 gourdes. The price of a container of cooking oil, which cost 1,825 gourdes in May 1993, now costs more than 1,900 gourdes.

"At the same time, there is acute unemployment. In my opinion, many industries have closed their doors since yesterday because, they said, they have not received any orders from customers abroad. They do not know whether they will be able to export in December, whether they will be able to export in January, whether they will have electricity so that they can work. We are, therefore, going toward acute unemployment, more serious unemployment."

The national currency continues to depreciate in relation to the American dollar. The exchange rate has increased by more than 10 percent within the past 15 days. It is most likely that this trend will persist because of the suspension of foreign aid.

"Since no dollars are coming into the country, there is a greater demand for dollars than people can supply. Therefore, we foresee that when there are no longer any assembly plants, there will be a shortage of dollars. We have learned—we do not know whether it is true, because we have no means of checking—that transfers of dollars from the United States and Canada to Haiti now arrive in gourdes. Dollars are changed abroad."

The depreciation would have increased even more if it were not for the impossibility of ordering oil products.

"It is the fact that we are not ordering fuel—as you know, an average of \$5 to \$7 million per month—that keeps the dollar at about 167 to 170 percent. If there were dollars on the market to buy oil, perhaps it would already have reached 200 percent."

Let us note that the reimposition of sanctions caused us to lose the advantages of international aid. If the political atmosphere continues to deteriorate, the sanctions will not soon be lifted.

"We were well into negotiations with the people who were giving and lending money. We had even reached

agreement to pay the arrears on Haiti's external debt. Friendly countries were helping us pay and, from there, they were going to pay out close to \$300 million this year, for 93-94, so that we could plan various projects. The first immediate victim of this situation is the Ministry of National Education, which was very shortly going to receive close to \$15 million to invest in infrastructure, in building schools and all kinds of things."

The efforts of the government very soon clashed with the reimposition of sanctions and the freezing of international financial aid. If we do not solve the political crisis between now and 30 January 1994, at that time we will lose the benefit of the aid we had negotiated with our traditional sponsors, which totals close to \$400 million dollars for 93-94.

"Those are millions, I repeat, that they were going to give us very quickly."

Dear fellow citizens, 30 September 1991 marked the beginning of an adventure which led us inexorably to chaos and the diplomatic and commercial isolation of our country. Fear clutches at all hearts and all families. Insecurity has created a situation of terror which obstructs all possibilities for truce as we approach the Christmas season.

"We are sending out another call. In all countries, as we approach Christmas, may the Holy Spirit or all other spirits reach people's hearts so that they drop their weapons, cease repression, and allow all families to find again some hope for the coming year of 1994, which will be a very tough year in all ways."

The systematic violation of civil liberties, the pressing impunity of troublemakers who commit acts and utter barely disguised threats against the country's institutions and citizens, those violations call on our human conscience and invite us to ask: Have we definitively and irreversibly returned to the reign of arbitrariness?

"Have we lost all the gains we have amassed since 1986? Will it be good for all of us to lose those gains? Because there will no progress in the world in 1993-94 without a minimum of democratic space. No one will invest. No one will have hope that tomorrow will be better. That is the situation that we are facing now."

Justice, the fundamental basis of any society of law and the first demand of the Haitian people, is absent from the debate. This is for me a new occasion to salute our friend, our Cabinet member, Minister Guy Malary, that fighter for freedom who was cravenly murdered for believing in justice and defending the state of law.

To the authorities of the military institution who never miss an occasion to invoke their devotion to the order of the Republic, as a sign of their mastery of the concepts of this order, I would like to recall that the cardinal principle of the system lies in the obedience of the forces of order to the government, the only institution whose orders they must execute.

Of those who have invested their money in our country and who accumulated enormous losses during the past two years, I am asking that they think of the opportunity for the future of their enterprises when the country enters on the path of legality and of a state of law with all its incidental growth and prosperity, rather than of maintaining this chaotic situation that endangers the existence of the nation and, as a consequence, that of their businesses.

To the constitutional institutions threatened by implosion, such as the Court of Cassation, the parliament, the Supreme Court of Audit and Administrative Litigation, it is more than time to think of the consequences to their own existence of the continuation of this situation. By promoting a solution to the crisis, they would safeguard the minute assets that are undermined a little more each day by those who recommend nihilism.

To the moral institutions that have served as a guide until now to the population, I ask that they seriously consider the country's moral crisis. The country needs to hear your voice. The country needs to hear your voice. [repeats] The government will be very pleased to hear it, as well.

To the employees of the public administration, and to the middle class who had to spend all their savings because of the suffering imposed by the crisis, are they not the ones who must support the return to the democratic order so that the country can finally plan for its development and offer the best future opportunities to our children and our staffs?

Of the political sector, I ask for particular attention in this difficult period. We must choose between democracy and going backwards, with all that the choice implies for the collective future. Political men and women who aspire to power must choose between continuing on the traditional path, where power is acquired without the people, or making the people, as in any democracy, the ones who determine the political game.

To the people who have ceaselessly suffered all the blows and counterblows of this crisis, I would say that their heavy sacrifices, the immense tribute they have paid to democracy, will not be in vain. We will continue to work for the establishment of a society of law where demands for justice and a better life will be taken into consideration. It is even in the interest of the national elite to take all those demands into account.

People of Haiti, it is by holding intact your determination and your steadfast support for change that we will finally achieve the results of all the sacrifices.

Dear compatriots, I would not want to end this message without a call for reason. I had said from the first day, in a country broken by passion, that I had chosen to be the guardian of reason. It is on behalf of this same reason that I would ask everyone, all the vital forces of the country, to respect a truce that would lead us to calm and serenity.

At this critical moment of national life, we must put the interests of the nation ahead of our private interests. If we have chosen to come out from behind the scenes, it is perhaps the only way to emerge from the crisis.

Dear compatriots, I am leaving for Washington to meet with the president and discuss with him some proposals for solutions to the crisis. I hope that we are still able to find a solution to the crisis. For that, it is necessary that we stop believing in a miracle formula, a sort of magic formula to reach that end. Our country needs faith, hope, development, but also realism.

These past few days have proven to me that we can manage our differences and resume among ourselves the dialogue without which we can only sink into the quicksands of mistrust and hate. This is the major lesson that we have learned from a week of talks with the various representatives of social and political forces. That is the message I am sending to you today and that is the same message that I will submit tomorrow in Washington to the head of state. Haiti needs democracy and progress. One does not work without the other. It is the duty of all of us, indiscriminately, to get down to both for the greatest welfare of the entire Haitian people. I thank you.

Jamaica

Institute Releases Trade, Inflation Figures

*FL0112162693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1508
GMT 1 Dec 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 1 Dec, CANA—Jamaica's imports increased by 23.8 per cent for January to August this year, compared to the same period last year, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (Statin) has reported.

The value of imports for the eight-month period was 1,351.9 million US dollars, a 259.8 million US dollar increase over the similar period a year ago. At the same time exports moved from 730 million US dollars for the eight month period in 1992 to 747 million US dollars this year - an increase of 2.3 per cent.

Statin, which measures economic indicators here, said the total value of merchandise trade for January to August was 2,099 million US dollars, an increase of 15.2 per cent over the period last year. Meanwhile, the consumer price index for September increased by 4.2 per cent over August, according to Statin. The index moved by 4.1 per cent in July and 3.4 per cent in August.

The price increases are a direct result of the fall of the Jamaican dollar against the world hard currencies, from 22.20 to one US dollar in the official banking system in June to an average 30 to one US dollar Tuesday.

Statin noted that for the calendar year up to September prices increased by 19.7 per cent while for the fiscal year the increase was 16.6 per cent. The point to point inflation rate from September 1992 to September 1993

stood at 22.4 per cent as against 73.3 per cent for the period September 1991 to September 1992, Statin pointed out.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Governor General Appeals for Calm

*FL0112191693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1714
GMT 1 Dec 93*

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 1 Dec, CANA—St. Kitts and Nevis governor general, Sir Clement Arrindell, on Wednesday appealed for calm as the two main political parties, deadlocked with four seats each after Monday's general election, searched for ways to grip power.

The governor general made the plea in a statement aired on state ZIZ radio at midday, while hundreds of party supporters massed outside government house in Basseterre, the capital.

Wednesday morning the governor general met with the leader of the St. Kitts Nevis Labour Party [SKNLP], Dr. Denzil Douglas, and his delegation. Later Sir Clement consulted with the leader of the People's Action Movement [PAM], Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, and his team.

Efforts by PAM and SKNLP to entice the concerned citizens movement (CCM) of Nevis - which has two seats - into a coalition proved futile. But PAM appeared to have reached some agreement with its old coalition partner, the Nevis Reformation Party, to form a new government.

The statement from government house said the leader of the Nevis Reformation Party, Joseph Parry, was meeting with the governor general at the same time as the PAM delegation.

Hundreds of Labour supporters, clad in red, gathered outside government house. Armed police had cordoned off the entrance to government house.

One suggestion making the rounds here is a caretaker government for a limited period comprising representatives from Labour, PAM and Nevis.

Nevis Premier Vance Amory, who heads CCM, told CANA: "The decision was taken in the interest of alleviating the current impasse in which the country finds itself." Pointing out that the stalemate affects only St. Kitts, Amory said Nevis was calm Wednesday. He suggests a return to the polls as soon as possible.

SKNLP Proposes Caretaker Government

*FL0112161893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1445
GMT 1 Dec 93*

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 1 Dec, CANA—Monday's general election having produced a dead-heat between the two main political parties, the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour

Party [SKNLP] on Wednesday proposed a caretaker government to run the twin-island state for six months. The government would comprise three Labour representatives, three representatives of Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds' People's Action Movement [PAM] and leader of the Concerned Citizen's Movement [CCM], Vance Amory as prime minister, according to Labour spokesman Michael Martin. The caretaker government would be disbanded after six months, when a general election would be held, said Martin. He told Canaradio the proposal was being taken to Governor General Sir Clement Arrindell Wednesday morning by Labour Party leader, Dr. Denzil Douglas.

Hundreds of Labour supporters gathered outside the governor general's home in Springfield, West Basseterre, in the morning, to await the outcome of the meeting. There was concern in the Labour camp that PAM would reach an accommodation with the Nevis Reformation Party [NRP] to form a coalition government. Both PAM and the Labour Party won four of the 11 seats in the national Parliament Monday. They would need the support of the Concerned Citizens Movement (two seats)

or NRP (one seat) to form a government. Amory, however, was reported as saying he had no interest in a coalition government.

PAM came to power in 1980 joining with the Nevis Reformation Party to oust Labour after 28 years in power. PAM won enough seats to form the government on its own in successive elections but kept the NRP as a partner. However, relations soured between the two over the years, with many Nevisians saying PAM used and then deserted them, a point raised by some during the just-ended political campaign.

After reporting failure in a bid to have the CCM as a coalition partner, Labour called for fresh general elections. It said the people of the federation had voted for change, giving Labour a majority of votes.

The Labour party, using a public address system through the streets of Basseterre, Wednesday morning announced that CCM was interested in an accommodation. The party urged Labour supporters to gather at masses house, the party's headquarters. From there, hundreds of supporters headed to the governor general's official residence. The police, however, blocked the road leading to government house.

PRD Followers Attack Police in Guerrero

PA0112142993 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Report by Enrique Gutierrez Sanmiguel from Guerrero State for the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] A group of 35 Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] followers armed with high-powered rifles and Molotov cocktails attacked the police detachment guarding the Chichihualco Municipal Palace in Guerrero State. According to a state government communique, the PRD attack resulted in serious injury to four policemen, who are now near death.

The PRD followers arrived at 1300 to take over the official building and prevent the change of municipal government that will take place today, 1 December. The policemen refused to turn over the building, so the PRD followers opened fire on the public force, wounding four policemen. The police holed up inside the building and returned fire. The battle lasted over 90 minutes until police reinforcements arrived to restore order.

Meanwhile, in Petatlan in the Costa Grande area, another PRD group peacefully took over the municipal palace to prevent the change of government that will take place simultaneously in the state's 65 municipalities.

New Secretaries, Mexico City Mayor Sworn In

PA0112142393 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 1 Dec 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Government Secretary Patrocinio Gonzalez Garido swore in three new secretaries and the Federal District mayor at 1000. Mr. Fernando Solana was sworn in as the new education secretary, replacing Ernesto Zedillo. Secretary Solana said that only through education can Mexicans' standards of living be improved and disparities in living conditions reduced. Ernesto Zedillo, upon stepping down from the post he held for two years, said he was convinced that the education transformation will continue in Mexico during President Carlos Salinas' last year in power.

Manuel Camacho Solis was sworn in at noon as secretary of foreign relations, replacing Fernando Solana. Mr. Camacho said he would always strive to make Mexico's foreign policy an expression of national consensus. Mr. Solana, who had been foreign relations secretary for five years, said that Mexico is currently more active and influential in the international community.

Manuel Aguilera Gomez was sworn in at 1330 as Federal District mayor. Mr. Aguilera was granted leave of absence by the Mexican senate from his seat as Federal District senator. The new Federal District mayor said he intends to maintain the policy of tolerance, dialogue, and consensus. Mr. Camacho Solis, who was present at the

event and who had held the post for five years, noted that a good job had been done in Mexico City.

Carlos Rojas was sworn in at 1430 as new secretary of social development, replacing Luis Donaldo Colosio. Mr. Rojas said all programs will be continued, particularly Solidarity as an example of social policy.

Free Trade Agreement With Costa Rica Postponed

PA0212004993 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[From the "Investing in Mexico" commentary program]

[Text] The free trade bilateral agreement between Costa Rica and Mexico was postponed until next year, possibly until January, according to a Costa Rican private sector spokesperson. We definitely cannot sign the treaty in December; at least one bilateral meeting will have to be held in San Jose, said Doris Osterlof, executive director of Cadexo [Exporting Chamber] of Costa Rica. Osterlof participated in a bilateral meeting over the weekend in Mexico.

According to the Costa Rican foreign trade minister, Costa Rican authorities had hoped to sign a free trade agreement with Mexico this year. We know that Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has said that Mexico will not forget Central America and that the Caribbean is undergoing a commercial opening.

Central America is a very important region where we can exert influence and expand the market of Mexican products in an area that needs our products and at the same time has raw materials that can be very useful to us.

Roundup of Economic Developments Through 29 Nov

PA3011223193

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Mexican economic developments monitored through 29 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

Nicaraguan Central Bank President Jose Evenor Taboada on 27 November announced that Mexico has decided to increase its line of credit with the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) from \$100 million to \$140 million. The announcement was made in Mexico City during the 33d BCIE Assembly by Central Bank President Taboada, who is also a BCIE governor. He added that in addition to increasing its line of credit, Mexico also has decided to acquire \$120 million in BCIE shares. (Paris AFP in Spanish 0101 GMT 28 Nov 93)

The Commerce Secretariat is forecasting a new record in foreign investments for 1993 after foreign investments totaled more than \$9 billion during the first 10 months of the year. According to Pedro Noyola, foreign trade

under secretary of the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat, Mexico received more than \$9.5 billion during the January-October period. He pointed out that the amount of foreign capital that will enter Mexico this year will surpass the 1991 record of \$9.7 billion. According to Noyola, Mexico is expected to receive at least \$10 billion in foreign investments. (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Nov 93)

Jose Angel Gurria Trevino, director of the National Foreign Trade Bank (Bancomext), pointed out on 25 November that by the end of the six-year period, accumulated foreign investments in Mexico will top \$60 billion. The Bancomext director said several large investments that had been withheld until NAFTA was approved are now in the final stages of their implementation. He also said that for strategic reasons it would be unadvisable for Mexico to limit its commercial relations to only those with the United States and Canada, and he added that the free trade agreement was the only viable option if Mexico wanted to ensure greater economic growth rates and price stability. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2351 GMT 25 Nov 93)

During October, Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) exported a daily average of 1,367,200 barrels of crude oil. Preliminary figures indicate that the exports comprised 260,000 barrels of Istmo oil, 830,200 barrels of Maya, and

277,000 barrels of Olmeca. A Pemex news release adds that during the first 10 months of 1993 the United States purchased 64.8 percent of Mexico's exports, Spain 15 percent, and the Far East 6 percent. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0957 GMT 23 Nov 93)

Pemex has reported domestic earnings amounting to \$23,959.6 million new pesos in the first nine months of the year. This represents average daily sales of 1.441 million barrels of oil. During the January-September period, Pemex sales were 0.184 percent higher than last year. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0920 GMT 24 Nov 93)

Mexico City Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis appeared before the Chamber of Deputies on 24 November to announce that there will be no new taxes for 1994 and certain taxes will be reduced, such as for the purchase of homes. Camacho Solis announced that the 1994 budget for Mexico City will be 16.38 billion new pesos, a 5.3 percent increase compared to the 1993 budget. The main areas to benefit from the increases are justice, public security, and social welfare. Camacho Solis reported that the inflation rate for the first half of November was 0.3 percent; there were increases in housing costs, transportation, clothing, and shoes. The accumulated index for 1993 was 7 percent—from November to November. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Nov 93)

El Salvador**Cristiani Begins Official Visit to Colombia 1 Dec***PA0112152893 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Dec 93*

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani today begins an official three-day visit to Colombia during which he expects to bolster political, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries. A National Communications Secretariat spokesman said that one of the issues Cristiani and his Colombian colleague Cesar Gaviria will discuss is the Salvadoran peace process, which began one year ago [as heard] with the signing of over 100 agreements between the government and former guerrillas.

Nevertheless, the spokesman added, there is no specific agenda of issues for the two presidents because Cristiani will be President Gaviria's special guest. The Salvadoran president will travel to Santa Fe de Bogota from Washington today after he and his Central American colleagues attend a meeting with the Caribbean Basin Initiative countries in Miami and a meeting with President Bill Clinton.

Cristiani will arrive in Colombia with his wife, Margarita Llach, Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Salaverria, Economy Minister Luis Enrique Cordoba, and his Arturo Tona, his private secretary.

Roundup: U.S. Position on Labor Reforms, Trade Status*PA0212040593*

[Editorial Report] As of filing time, Salvadoran media monitored by Panama Bureau have been observed to carry limited reportage and comment on the possibility that the United States might suspend El Salvador's preferred nation trade status if the Salvadoran Government fails to reform national labor laws.

San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish on pages 3 and 53 of its 30 November edition carries a 300-word report on the reaction of Leonel Mejia, the president of the Salvadoran Industrialists Association. Mejia is one of a number of business and labor leaders attending the "economic and social agreement forum" that has been established to discuss the International Labor Organization's (ILO) recommended reforms of the Salvadoran labor code.

Mejia says, "We cannot negotiate labor legislation hastily or under foreign pressure." Noting that "a U.S. Embassy official has stated that El Salvador will be removed from the U.S. General Preference System [SGP] if the ILO recommendations are not approved by 15 December," the report cites Mejia as saying: "If the SGP is being used as a means of pressure, it would be better to lose preferred-nation status rather than to have a labor code that does not agree with the country's reality."

Mejia adds that the economic and social forum has agreed on nearly all of the ILO recommendations, except those concerning union requirements. He explains the forum's reservations about the recommended union requirements by saying, "We are afraid they could create an excessive number of unions, which, in turn, could hamper production."

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish, on page 3 of its 30 November edition, publishes a 375-word report on statements by Deputy Raul Somoza Alfaro, a member of the Executive Committee of the Nationalist Republican Alliance. Somoza Alfaro says the U.S. warning that El Salvador's tariff benefits will be suspended unless the nation approves the ILO's 49 recommendations constitutes economic "blackmail." He goes on to say this is not the first time the United States has acted in this way. "Rest assured that even if we approve the labor code reforms," the United States "within days, will still be saying it plans to suspend the SGP for some reason or other." Somoza Alfaro goes on to admit, however, that certain labor standards must be met "in order to enjoy international trade benefits."

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on page 7 of its 29 November edition publishes a 450-word editorial entitled "Thinking About a Different Country." The editorial praises the beginning of discussions among labor and business leaders at the economic and social agreement forum. After listing the problems that delayed the start of the forum, the editorialist states: "Ultimately, rational flexibility prevailed." The editorial adds: "A major challenge is the issue of labor code reforms, which have always been a pebble in the shoe of both workers and businesses. Unfortunately, we still need outside pressure" to address such matters.

The editorial goes on to charge that "if it were not for the threat of suspension of the SGP, we would not be discussing reforms of the labor code." The newspaper concludes its editorial by saying that, in the end, the talks have finally gotten under way "because we are thinking about creating a different country."

In related news, San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 30 November broadcasts a one-minute report announcing that "a labor code reforms package is about to be presented to the National Assembly for discussion." The report, which notes "the Salvadoran Government has until 15 December to ratify the reforms or risk losing the SGP benefits granted to El Salvador by the United States," fails to say exactly when the package will be submitted to the National Assembly for debate.

Roundup of Economic Developments Through 30 Nov*PA3011231593*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Salvadoran economic developments monitored through 30 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

Central Reserve Bank [BCR] Vice President Gino Bettaglio reported on 25 November that the Salvadoran financial system has recovered over \$459 million since system reforms were instituted in June 1989. Bettaglio said that this is due to banks recouping debts and privatization of banks and savings and loans associations. Banking debts were reduced from \$229.885 million in 1989 to \$206.896 million up to September 1993. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2223 GMT 25 Nov 93)

A report from the Central Reserve Bank shows that the Salvadoran trade balance remained negative between January to July despite a 25-percent increase in exports compared to the same period in 1992. Total exports for the first seven months was \$458.231 million while imports amounted to \$142.131 million, and increase of 18.6 percent. The BCR reported that 52.7 percent of the exports were destined for industrialized or G-7 countries; 9.7 percent went to Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, and Denmark, considered the second group of industrialized countries; exports for developing countries amounted to 42.8 percent and out of this percentage 37.6 percent went to Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras. Other countries received 4.5 percent of the exports. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2020 GMT 25 Nov 93)

Guatemala

President Remarks on Meeting With Clinton

PA0212000993 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Report on news conference by President Ramiro de Leon Carpio upon arrival from Washington, D.C., at the Air Force Terminal in Guatemala City on 1 December; from the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio arrived today at 1000 from the United States, where he and his Central American counterparts met in Washington with U.S. President Bill Clinton to discuss the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, and other regional topics.

Upon arrival at the Guatemalan Air Force Terminal, where he was welcomed by Vice President Arturo Herbruger Asturias as well as by several ministers of state, President de Leon Carpio held a news conference, where he reported on the results of his meeting with U.S. President Clinton.

[Begin de Leon recording, in progress] my great satisfaction for the recent successful visit of Central American presidents and our meeting with President Clinton. I am sure that the Central American people have learned through the media that the visit was very successful and fruitful.

Regarding formalities, I must mention that I am personally happy to have complied with what I promised the Guatemalan people when I said that the president of the Republic would only travel for extraordinary reasons, such as this one. I am also satisfied because we maintained one of the principles of this government, austerity, in addition to honesty and the fight against corruption. When I say austerity I mean that I was only accompanied by the chief of the presidential staff and two other officers: one who had departed earlier to Washington and another who traveled with me. In Washington, we were joined by three government officials: the president of the Bank of Guatemala, the acting economy minister, and the foreign minister. We are very pleased to say this.

As for the achievements made during this trip, I believe they are obvious. President Clinton was totally open and willing to help and support Central America, specifically in our request to join NAFTA, which is a reality and which undoubtedly entails economic risks for Central America but at the same time is an opportunity to redouble our efforts. Central America requested its incorporation, and the reply was totally favorable.

In that regard, I met with Central American presidents yesterday, which is why I did not return until today, and we agreed to create a high-level commission. Each president will appoint a representative, who the foreign and economy ministers will support. The commission will follow up on the request we made to President Clinton yesterday. We informed President Clinton of this decision. This means that the visit, the request, and President Clinton's reply, which, as I said, was totally satisfactory, will not be forgotten but will be followed up until we have reached our goal.

Based on a NAFTA article, the President can include Central America, as part of Latin America, among the countries that can join NAFTA; in that manner, effective 1 July 1994, we will begin receiving the benefits of that treaty within the framework of free competition. We have three years to prepare ourselves. I believe this is a challenge for our country's productivity, as our market is strategically located. As I said during my visit, before my departure, Guatemala has an excellent opportunity to sell its products in a natural market as Mexico, particularly its southern region, the United States, and, subsequently, Canada.

In addition, something else of great importance that we discussed was ecology. We immediately got a response, not only from President Clinton but also from Vice President Gore, who has been tasked with the environment.

It was immediately approved to give Central America all of the resources so that it can become a model plan, an example of consolidation, an example of an area of ecological and environmental defense. Specifically, it was agreed that Central America will execute a pilot program so that it will serve as an example of a region of

ecological preservation and environmental defense. That signifies a great step forward, because we all know that Central Americans—and with Guatemala having such a special, natural lung, as is Peten, that is not just ours but the entire world's—have difficulties in preserving our ecology. With the aid offered formally by the United States, I think that Central America can achieve a specific environmental defense and be able to bequeath to our children a legacy that is being so unattended, as is our ecology and environment.

In sum, the specific request we made to President Clinton and to his government was that there be the possibility of Central American countries being able to enter the expanded free trade market. While that occurs, we requested the real possibility of getting the equivalent benefits of the Caribbean Basin Initiative. We stated that such actions should be executed within the framework of respect for human rights and the environment. I think, therefore, that the social, international, and national media have taken it upon themselves to convey our success at having held this meeting with President Clinton. This is a motive of tremendous satisfaction for us Central Americans. This is especially so, because we obtained such favorable responses to the regional proposals we raised. [end recording]

Another of the topics raised with President Clinton was the efforts to achieve peace in Guatemala and in other Central American countries. President de Leon Carpio stated. We also discussed the return to institutionality as of the 25 May coup d'etat.

[Begin de Leon recording] Basically, President Clinton praised and backed all of the actions taken by the Guatemalan people and Government. He acknowledged the advances made by all of the countries: Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica, which have always been an example of democracy and governability to Latin America and the world. Clinton made special reference to Guatemala and acknowledged, first, our advancements in furthering respect for human rights, and second, our efforts to attain peace and, most importantly, to consolidate our institutional and constitutional system.

We had the opportunity of mentioning the events in the country after 25 May, and President Clinton lauded all Guatemalans, who have shown that they have started to know, love, and defend the democratic system as is evidenced by the fact that our society found a solution, to give it a name, to the institutional crisis in which we were ensnared since 25 May.

The President and the U.S. officials with whom we spoke also praised us for having gotten out of the recent political crisis, as we had acted with maturity and restored political stability. They especially expressed their satisfaction with the degree of maturity we evidenced and our respect for the democratic system. In the past five months, Guatemala has shown that it knows

how to get out of political crises without violence or breaking the Constitution and laws.

Perhaps the most important issue that was broached during our talks was our forthcoming referendum. The officials admire this procedure because it is a democratic, pure, and direct system; in addition, this is the first time in Guatemala's history that the Constitution is going to be reformed without a coup. In the past, our constitutions were changed in dictatorial, authoritarian, or military regimes. For the first time in our history there will be a change of mandate in the Legislative and Judicial Branches without breaking the Constitution. All of this is greatly appreciated, admired, and acknowledged by the U.S. people and Government. We also believe it is a positive step as it will allow us to advance to resolve other economic and social problems and other issues. [end recording]

In summation, President Ramiro de Leon Carpio said he would study the deputies' amendments to the government's budget bill for 1994 and will give his opinion on this issue next Thursday.

[Begin recording] [de Leon] Yes, I know about this. I saw the television newscasts, which I had recorded, and read the newspapers today. I would prefer to comment on this tomorrow, however.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[De Leon] I would prefer to talk about this tomorrow when I have verified all of the facts. I am going to the Presidential Palace right now to study the bill's approval.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[De Leon] I would prefer to talk about this tomorrow when I have studied the issue thoroughly.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[De Leon] As I said, I read the newspapers this morning. The columns and editorials were quite interesting, but I will talk about this tomorrow. Right now, I want to talk to you about our accomplishments in the United States. [end recording]

Honduras

Callejas Remarks on Presidents' Meeting With Clinton

PA0112170293 Tegucigalpa Telesistema Hondureno
Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Report by Edgardo Melgar for "This Very Day" newscast]

[Text] President Rafael Callejas arrived in Honduras at about 1700 following a meeting with other Central American presidents and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

[Begin Callejas recording] Among the agreements reached was a guarantee of multilateral aid in light of the budget reduction for bilateral aid to Central America and other countries eligible for AID [Agency for International Development] programs. Trade and investments will be increased and programs will be generated to create jobs for low-income sectors. [end recording]

Callejas added that the most important and satisfying part of the meeting was that all the Central American presidents who participated were democratically elected in their countries, which is very important when it comes to signing agreements with the United States.

Callejas said they also discussed the need for Central America to receive the same preferential treatment Mexico receives when the free trade agreement is implemented.

[Begin recording] [Callejas] I previously felt that something was missing, but now the U.S. Government has come out in full support of Central America. That pleases me because all the presidents were deeply concerned that the region would be abandoned for other areas of greater interest to the United States. President Clinton was very specific on this issue. He said his government had been unable to establish these alternatives for Central America because there were other justifiable priorities on his domestic agenda.

[Unidentified reporter] According to what you have said, no time or resources will be available immediately or in the medium-term for the region.

[Callejas] There will be. The problem is that six presidents and the U.S. president held a one-hour meeting, and it was not possible to discuss each country. We discussed the region. I presume that within the short term Honduras' president elect or the constitutional president will have to travel to the United States. Between now and when he takes office, the AID and U.S. organizations will be in Honduras and they will establish in their analyses how much aid Honduras will receive over the next four years. [end recording]

Pleased with his trip to Washington, President Callejas announced that it has been guaranteed to him that once the North American Free Trade Agreement goes into effect, Central America's economic and social situations will not be affected.

Callejas also referred to the adversity encountered by the National Party of Honduras during the presidential elections. He said now is not the time to cry or to look for people to blame. He added that the economic measures implemented by his administration did not decide the party's electoral defeat.

Nicaragua

Managua Notes Deputy Minister on Release of U.S. Aid

PA0112193593 Managua Sistema Nacional Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to unfreeze U.S. aid to Nicaragua represents full political support for Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's administration and a personal victory for her.

A questions and answer session was held following a meeting of the Central American presidents, the Belizean president, and President Clinton at the White House. One question dealt with aid for Nicaragua. Mr. Clinton answered: We discussed aid for Nicaragua briefly. I recently approved the release of aid for fiscal year 1993 in response to the significant progress made in Nicaragua in asserting civilian power over the Army, in trying to solve certain U.S. citizens' property ownership claims, as well as in other areas. I feel comfortable with this decision.

Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Bernard Pallais said the U.S. President's decision is the result of President Chamorro's personal efforts.

[Begin Pallais recording] The release of aid is the result of President Chamorro's personal and direct work. When she left Managua, she had said she would do everything necessary to achieve this result. We can regard this as success due to her personal efforts because the decision was made in the course of her private conversation with President Clinton. This is a political commitment at the highest level by the U.S. executive. The decision was announced in a statement politically supportive of President Chamorro and the country's democratization and reconstruction process, which she leads. [end recording]

This is a very positive sign for the international community.

[Begin Pallais recording] The group of donor countries will meet in Nicaragua in December. This decision will make it possible for the community to keep supporting the country's stabilization and structural adjustment program and to guarantee the country's economic reconstruction. [end recording]

As for procedures, the U.S. Congress will be notified will have 15 days to express any objections to this disbursement.

[Begin Pallais recording] The President can override these objections. The political decision is to support Nicaragua because, as President Clinton said, there have been many achievements and great progress in the economic recovery, solution of property claims, and subordination of military power to civilian power, all of which marks Nicaragua as a country worthy of receiving U.S. economic support and cooperation. [end recording]

FSLN, UNO Teams Agree on Constitutional Reforms*PA0112200093 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
30 Nov 93 pp 1, 12*

[Report by Noel Irias]

[Text] Negotiating teams for the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the National Opposition Union (UNO) last night concluded their work after agreeing on 92 reforms of the 202 articles in the Constitution. These 92 articles are to be ratified this afternoon by the coalition's [UNO] Political Council.

Nevertheless, it is possible that the signing of this agreement be delayed given UNO's demands regarding a majority in the Legislative Assembly or because of opposition by some political parties, among them the National Conservative Party, the Liberal Constitutionalist Party [PLC], or the Independent Liberal Party [PLI].

A few days ago, the National Conservative Party withdrew Julio Icaza Tijerino, its representative, from the UNO negotiating commission. Meanwhile, the PLI did not attend the bilateral round of talks. On the other hand, Sergio Garcia Quintero, PLC plenipotentiary delegate, demonstrated "a constructive attitude," according to Daniel Ortega, Sandinist leader.

Bayardo Arce, member of the FSLN National Directorate, said last night: "Let's hope that the UNO Political Council does not throw out this negotiating effort." Meanwhile, Daniel Ortega, FSLN secretary general, said he hoped that "the UNO Political Council will ratify those agreements and not throw cold water on these efforts, so these reforms can go forward."

After nine meetings, there are still 12 articles on which no agreement has been reached. These will be debated in today's meeting. Among these articles are the possibility of a runoff if a presidential candidate does not garner 50 percent of the votes; the imprescriptibility of confiscations; the Army's new name, and the Constitution's preamble.

Dr. Arguello Satisfied

Miriam Arguello, chief of UNO's negotiating team, expressed her satisfaction with the conclusion of these talks that place on the negotiating table all aspects of the proposed constitutional reforms presented by the opposition coalition in 1991. Arguello noted: "In all our endeavors, we have focused in depth and in substance on what is necessary to reform the Constitution."

The conservative politician dismissed statements by some UNO coalition party leaders on the future of these agreements. Arguello said these are the opinions of individuals and not of the coalitions' maximum authority. Arguello explained that the Political Council will be in charge of ratifying the agreements today, but she abstained from making forecasts on the position to be adopted this afternoon by the chiefs of the 10 political parties that comprise the coalition.

Ortega Praises Constitutional Amendments Agreement*PA0112200393 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
30 Nov 93 p 12*

[Report by Noel Irias]

[Text] Daniel Ortega, Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] secretary general, has described the reforms agreed on with the National Opposition Union [UNO] as "a leap forward in the country's democratization" because "a balance between state branches will be attained and greater stability and joint administration through consensus will be possible. These in-depth reforms strengthen and update the 1987 Constitution" because they involve 50 percent of the articles, he said.

The agreements he mentioned include one prohibiting the executive from privatizing education and health services or disposing of public property without the National Assembly's authorization. Other agreements include the creation of a council of ministers; constitutional, administrative litigation, and higher labor courts; and an ombudsman's office.

According to Ortega, the reforms determine shares of power for other sectors. In the future, appointments of magistrates will depend to a great extent on university schools, the lawyers' bar, associations of accountants and church members, and human rights organizations.

Ortega expressed satisfaction with the results of the negotiations and said the UNO constitutional commission did a good job. "There was a willingness to approve the reform package," he said. He added that it is healthy to reduce the executive's prerogatives without creating a need for a parliamentary government. "These reforms have not been approved with this government in mind but with the country's future in mind, either with a Sandinist government or any other coalition," he said.

This afternoon FSLN and UNO will have an opportunity to sign a very important political agreement for the first time in three years. But this signing does not automatically make these agreements law. The next hurdle will be approval by the Legislative Assembly's plenum.

The first hurdle is Article 142 of the Constitution, which stipulates that constitutional reforms be debated in two legislatures. The deadline ends on 15 December, when the current legislative session ends. Ortega said: "It will be possible to introduce reforms prior to 15 December if there is political willingness. Nevertheless, I do not think it necessary to amend the Constitution to lower the number of legislatures for the amendments."

Several UNO leaders, including Alfredo Cesar, told the media that they still want to convene a constituent assembly. Regarding this, Ortega said: "A constituent assembly is an instrument at the people's disposal, and the people should never renounce it. But I do not think this is the right instrument to be used at this time."

Argentina

Supreme Court Judge Resigns; Others Possible

PY0212024093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0023 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Dec (NA)—Supreme Court acting President Rodolfo Barra today tendered his resignation to presidency secretary General Eduardo Bauza as a "minimum contribution" to the accord between the government and the Radical Civic Union [UCR]. In the next 24 hours, his action may be followed by at least two other justices.

Without reporting to the other justices, Barra left for Government House a little after 1900 [2200 GMT] and, despite having scheduled a consensus meeting for tomorrow, he tendered his resignation to Bauza.

Barra said his action was not meant to influence his peers' decision, but his resignation was a shock to the other justices on the Supreme Court Building's fourth floor.

"Until my resignation is accepted, I will continue as the Supreme Court president," Barra said upon returning to the Supreme Court Building just past 2030. As a result, tomorrow he will head the court meeting in which the controversial topic of the Corrientes Province Constituent Assembly will be discussed.

This decision would at least allow Justice Julio Nazareno to wait for President Carlos Menem's return and being asked to leave his position. Late in the afternoon, however, the possibility of Nazareno resigning tomorrow "if somebody calls for it," was not discarded.

Barra was the main coordinator of the group of five justices who asked Antonio Boggiano to resign his position as Supreme Court president. Barra justified Boggiano's dismissal as an attempt "to improve the situation and boost the constitutional reform."

Court sources also mentioned Eduardo Moline O'Connor's possible resignation. Returning from the day off he "unexpectedly" took on 29 November, O'Connor said he had "not considered the possibility of resigning."

The election of new Supreme Court justices will depend on "political accords," one of the justices admitted today. He also admitted that Boggiano's removal from the Supreme Court presidency had been decided by the justices themselves.

This justice also said that the date to elect a new president has not been set yet, as was reported yesterday, and—clearly referring to the possibility that at least three of the current justices will be replaced within the framework of the "Democratic Pact" being endorsed by the ruling party and the UCR—that it will take place only "when the new justices arrive."

After six days out of the Federal Capital, Justice O'Connor this afternoon returned to his office on the Supreme Court Building's fourth floor. When leaving his office, he categorically denied the possibility of resigning his position.

"I don't intend to resign," he bluntly told journalists when he left the Supreme Court at about 1845. He did not explain where he had been while the latest events were taking place at the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, a Supreme Court spokesman said that all the justices were aware "that any one of them could be asked to resign." The spokesman made these comments when asked about Rodolfo Barra's negotiations that resulted in Boggiano's removal from the presidency.

The Supreme Court plans to meet at 1730 tomorrow under Barra's presidency to discuss—among other important topics—the issue related to the Corrientes Supreme Court's alleged trespassing in dealing with themes related to reforms to be made to the provincial Constitution, which could directly influence the national Constituent Assembly.

A Supreme Court source reported that "what occurred yesterday was a court decision that had no political connotations." The source repeated that the request made to Boggiano resulted exclusively from the fact that they did not feel "represented" by him.

The spokesman also admitted that Boggiano's resignation "does not comply with the Democratic Pact's aspirations." He explained, however, that "although the decision seemed to be a political gesture (to offer the position to the UCR), Boggiano was removed because the other justices had lost confidence on him."

Regarding the meeting held yesterday, the justice remembered that most of the justices had requested Boggiano's resignation, although Carlos Fayt "ardently defended Boggiano and the Judicial Branch's independence."

Justice Enrique Petracchi asserted that he will remain in his position "unless Congress" decides to remove him. He said he "absolutely" doesn't feel pressed by the political power.

"I will remain in my position unless Congress decides to impeach me," Petracchi emphasized, and added that judges "must speak through their words." In this regard, he asserted that the Supreme Court justice who publicly comments on the issue "must count on their peers' consensus."

He declined to comment on whether rumors about Justices Barra, O'Connor, and Ricardo Levene's resignation, which were repeated by President Carlos Menem in Japan, meant that one government branch was interfering with the other.

He said: "I have heard nothing about it; I know nothing about the rumors, nor about what the president has

said." After pointing out that "absolute calm has been reigning" in the Supreme Court since Boggiano's resignation, the justice confirmed that the election of a new president is not planned this week.

Justice Augusto Belluscio, however, insisted that Boggiano "no longer represented the majority" and denied planning to resign. Belluscio admitted that "never in the history of Argentine justice" has anything similar occurred in the Supreme Court.

He asserted that the Judicial Branch's independence "has its limits just like any other branch's does. Justices cannot be dismissed unless they are removed from their positions by Congress. I don't know who must leave the Supreme court, but I do know that I will not."

He said that, personally, he believes that "the Supreme Court should have remained the way it was until 1990: having five members and the same cadre it had then" because the justices "should not change just because the government did."

Giving clear hints about what would occur a few hours later, President Menem said in Tokyo that Barra's resignation was the only "sure" modification the government would make to comply with the UCR request for the removal of three of the nine Supreme Court justices.

Buenos Aires Governor Eduardo Duhalde, of the Justicialist Party, is accompanying Menem in his tour of the Far East. He said the changes in the Supreme Court were to be expected because "nothing else could be done."

Antonio Erman Gonzalez, deputy-elect and former member of Menem's cabinet, called for Boggiano's resignation because "if his peers say that he no longer represents them, he cannot represent justice or guarantee compliance with justice for the rest of the country either."

Radical-Justicialist Reform Accord Issued

PY0212112693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0058 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Dec (NA)—The text of the agreement between Justicialists and Radicals disclosed today ratifies all the points agreed upon by President Carlos Menem and Radical Party leader Raul Alfonsin on 14 November in Olivos to reform the national Constitution, thus allowing the chief of state to seek his reelection.

The document does not specify the percentage needed to avoid a second round in the presidential elections, nor does it specify the duration of the senators' mandate.

The following are the main points of the text disclosed this evening by the constitutional commissions of the two parties:

—Weaken the presidential system: promote the creation of a ministers cabinet chief, who will be appointed and

removed by the president of the nation and will respond politically to the national Congress, which may remove him by means of a vote of censure. He may be questioned if a motion of censure against him is approved by the absolute majority of all the members of any of the two houses, and be removed with the approval of the absolute majority of all the members of each house.

- Reduce the mandate of the president and vice president of the nation to four years, with the possibility of immediate reelection for a single period, considering the current presidential mandate as the first period.
- In keeping with the principle of freedom of worship, eliminate the requirement that one must profess the Catholic faith in order to become president of the nation.
- Direct election of three senators, two by the majority and one by the minority, by each province and by the city of Buenos Aires, and reduce the mandates of those who are elected.

It is established that as of 1995 the reform will be implemented with the incorporation of the third senator per district, thus guaranteeing the representation of the minority, as well as the link between the renewal of the mandates of the senators with the elections of president and vice president and of the governors.

- Include a "transitory clause" that will take care of the need to transform a system of indirect election of one senator at a time into a direct election of three senators at the same time, representing the minority.
- Direct election in a second round of the president and vice president of the nation, considering the national territory as a single district. This election will take place two months before the mandate of the president in power expires.
- Direct election of the mayor and the reform of the legal status of the city of Buenos Aires by reforming Article 67, clause 27, Article 86, clause 3 of the national Constitution.
- Implement the possibility of unifying the start to all elective mandates on the same date.
- Regulate the presidential power to dictate the necessary and urgent decrees and procedures to expedite the discussion and sanctioning of laws. The PEN [National Executive Branch] may by no means, under the threat of absolute and unavoidable invalidity, issue resolutions of a legislative nature referring to penal, tax, electoral, and political party law issues.

The delegation of legislative power in the PEN is also forbidden, except in certain administrative matters or public emergencies, and for established periods.

Possible congressional interventions will be reduced to three, and no draft bill totally rejected by one of the

houses will be presented again during the same year. Draft bills partially rejected will not be approved partially.

Ordinary Congress sessions will begin on 1 March and will end on 30 November of each year.

—The convention will reaffirm that federal interventions are a congressional prerogative.

—A Council of Magistrates regulated by a specific law will be in charge of the government and administration of the Judicial Branch. It will be regularly integrated in order to balance the membership between representatives of elected political organs, judges of all levels, and lawyers. Independent personalities will also be incorporated in the way and number indicated by the law.

Council attributions will be to select, through public competitions, candidates to lower courts; submit proposals (of two or three names) for the nomination of lower court magistrates; administer the resources and implement the budget that the law assigns to the administration of justice; exercise disciplinary actions; decide the opening of proceedings for the removal of magistrates; and dictate the regulations for Judicial Branch organization.

—Appointment of federal magistrates: Supreme Court judges will be nominated by the president of the Republic, and confirmed by the Senate. An absolute majority of all Senate members, in a public session convened to that effect, will be required for approval. Other judges will be designated by the president of the Republic, who will select from the names included in a tied proposal [*propuesta vinculante*] (two or three names) submitted by the Council of Magistrates and confirmed by the Senate in a public session. The appointment of the capital's magistrates will be ruled by the same norms until the respective organizational regulations establish the appropriate system to be applied.

—Removal of federal magistrates: National Supreme Court members will be removed only following a political trial due to poor performance, malfeasance committed in the exercise of their functions, or common crime.

Other judges will be removed, for the same reasons, by a trial jury made up by legislators, magistrates, lawyers, and independent personalities.

—Administrative supervision and greater protection of people's rights: The convention will sponsor the formulation of a law creating the National General Auditor's Office, with functional autonomy and technical dependence on Congress.

—Ombudsman: The post of "ombudsman, with financial autonomy and technical dependence on Congress," is hereby created.

—Reorganization of the federal system to favor the economic progress and development of provinces and regions, eliminating competition between the nation and provinces concerning expenditures and resources, and in rendering services. Concerning concurrent rights and obligations, special rules are hereby established for coparticipation and coresponsibility, among other things, in addition to establishing the municipal autonomy.

—To favor Latin American and continental integration, granting to Congress the power to approve international treaties on political, cultural, or economic integration.

—Political rights and guarantees of constitutional order: The inclusion of a chapter that will guarantee pluralism in democratic life is also suggested, including a system of guarantees that will also include special majorities for the approval of laws pertaining to the constitutional order, its defense, political rights, and electoral laws.

Bolivia

New Economic Goals Set for IMF Credit Eligibility

PY0112192593 La Paz: PRESENCIA in Spanish
16 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] Bolivia must grow more, spend much less, and maintain a strict monetary policy. According to the goals set between the government and the IMF, the country must grow 4 percent next year, have a fiscal deficit of 3 percent of the GDP, and a single-digit inflation and devaluation rate if it wants to receive a new IMF credit of \$20 million for its balance of payments.

The Expanded Structural Adjustment Service implemented by the IMF with Bolivia in 1988 to support possible deficiencies in its balance of payments was reaffirmed on 15 November within the new terms that seek to overcome the current situation.

The document signed on 14 November by Finance Minister Fernando Illanes and Central Bank President Fernando Candia, for Bolivia, with an IMF delegation restructured the conditions for the country's development based on a macroeconomic policy.

Illanes said: "It is a reaffirmation of the extension of the agreement signed four years ago and will allow the country to receive \$20 million within a program that will last until the end of 1994."

The requirements and conditions demanded from the country this time lead to an administration much stricter on expenditures and the budget, with control of the entire public sector but also with the demand for more growth.

The rate of increase in production of goods and services in the Bolivian economy—the GDP—decreased last year and will drop again this year.

The GDP increased 4.2 percent in 1991; 3.8 percent in 1992; and according to government estimates, just a month before the end of 1993, the economy will grow only 3.2 percent.

With a GDP increase of 4 percent in 1993, "we would be experiencing a growth rate in production anyway," Illanes said during his news conference.

Likewise, the country has spent much more than what it has received. According to the goals established with the IMF, the government can spend, compared with what is received, only 3.5 percent of the GDP. However, this year the fiscal deficit exceeded 8.5 percent.

By June the deficit would have been 263.9 million bolivianos and what was implemented reached 715.7 million. There is a difference in national currency of 451.8 million.

That situation implies that the deficit for the first half of the year was almost equivalent to the deficit budgeted for all of 1993.

The annual deficit should have been 770.5 million bolivianos, according to the information from the former finance minister. However, by the middle of the administration there was a year's worth of deficit. Therefore, the objective to achieve a fiscal deficit of 3.34 percent of the GDP, as programmed, was practically unachievable for the new government.

The public sector's performance is measured according to the surplus or deficit that can be achieved. A deficit means that the sum of expenditures is greater than income and, therefore, it results in a negative countable balance.

Finance and Economic Development Minister Fernando Illanes said that on 14 November the government signed the agreement with the IMF for an adjustment program.

The ministers of finance and social communications agreed in terming the agreement "very difficult and tiresome" for taking a week more than the established deadline for the negotiations conducted in La Paz.

Illanes expressed his satisfaction with the agreement's signing, stating that the negotiations were delayed because of two factors: the level of uncontrolled expenditures and the country's successive nonfulfillment of goals agreed upon with the IMF.

Herman Antelo explained, in his role as official government spokesman, that the main reasons for the delay were the level of uncontrolled expenditures during the previous administration and the successive series of unfulfilled commitments with the IMF.

The talks had to restore the IMF's confidence in the country and firm up an agreement for a more austere future administration concerning fiscal and monetary aspects, he said.

For that agreement, the country promises to fulfill certain economic goals and the IMF grants a loan to help offset the balance of payments.

'90 Percent' of Chapare Coca Intended for Trafficking

*PY0112150493 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish
20 Nov 93 National Section p 3*

[Text] La Paz, 19 Nov—Minister of Government German Quiroga has reported that 90 percent of the coca produced in the Cochabamba Chapare region is intended for drug trafficking, and for this reason there must be stricter control over the marketing of this ancient leaf.

These statistics have been explained to coca producers, and the executive branch has thus ratified its proposal for the organization of a team of people made up of representatives of serious institutions to work jointly in overseeing this work.

According to Social Defense Under Secretary Enrique Soria it has been decided to adjourn the round of meetings, the second session of which was held this past Friday, 19 November, until Wednesday, 24 November, to allow the coca producers to analyze the government proposals.

On this matter Minister Quiroga said that the government has ratified its proposal to the leaders. These leaders are now analyzing these proposals, and we are expecting an answer as soon as possible.

He added that the coca producers must analyze four points, and according to the executive branch the main point refers to the debate on the marketing of coca leaves.

The other points refer to Law 1008, the marketing control system, and peasant participation in the alternative development program.

Brazil

Finance Minister Cardoso Interviewed

PY0112205593 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Nov 93 Economy Section p B4

["Exclusive" interview with Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso by Jose Negreiros; place and date not given]

[Text] [Negreiros] Does your new plan provide for the creation of a new currency?

[Cardoso] I do not know of a single stabilization case that does not end with a new, strong, and convertible currency. That is the plan's objective. But I do not want a stable currency out of love for orthodoxy. I want a stable currency to be able to implement social policies. Those who are suffering in Brazil today are not businessmen, who are doing all right with the government and whose revenues have never been so high. The only year they did not do better was 1990 because that year the government implemented a confiscation policy. In 1994 we will beat all records for our fight on tax evasion without tax increases. Inflation has created two currencies: the currencies of the rich and the currency of the poor. We want a single currency in order to be able to care for our people. There is an apartheid system in effect in Brazil.

[Negreiros] Some people say your plan is a camouflaged use of a dollarization plan. Is that true?

[Cardoso] No. In the case of a dollarization plan—the most recent example was implemented in Argentina—the economy becomes dollarized all by itself. The dollar becomes the reference or contract unit and the local financial system disappears. This is not the case in Brazil, which has a strong financial system. Besides, in Argentina the Congress approved a law establishing a one-to-one parity of the local currency with the dollar. We do not think that is the best solution because it will limit the Brazilian economy and affect our exports. Besides, it will deprive the country of a maneuvering margin. No. We do not want to lose the characteristics of a currency that can behave with more freedom with other currencies. We do not necessarily need to dollarize the economy. Currencies can become convertible without that one-to-one link with the dollar.

[Negreiros] When will Brazilians hear the details of the entire plan?

[Cardoso] The plan is finished. But I agreed with the president of the Republic to hand him a copy (today) so that he might review it carefully. Then we will have a meeting with experts to define how to proceed, something that only he can do. A plan of this kind is not a personal plan or a government plan alone. Either we have a national willingness expressed in broad support for what we want to do or we will not succeed.

[Negreiros] What makes you think that people or economic agents will support the new index?

[Cardoso] They will realize that the new index will be the advance note of a currency stabilization plan. It will be an indication of society's and the market's behavior. Society wants a stabilization plan. If they want it they will support it. We must pay attention to this: It is very difficult to implement a stabilization plan without coercive mechanisms. But Brazilian society finds all coercive mechanisms unacceptable today. It is a moment of great democracy and freedom. Therefore, coercive attempts will fail if people are not convinced that our proposals have the characteristics I just mentioned. It is different

from a plan implemented during the [Chile's Augusto] Pinochet regime, or even in Argentina, where the government practically collapsed, creating the conditions for Congress to surrender its political power. We are not asking Congress to give us more power. We are careful to respect Congress and the market.

[Negreiros] Will it be necessary to deregulate the exchange rate?

[Cardoso] Later on, although you cannot place the cart before the horse. But we will only deregulate the exchange rate once the people gain confidence in what we have done so far. The country is returning to normal, as is the case here in Canada. We will never lose control but are heading toward deregulation.

[Negreiros] Are you going to set an example on behalf of the public sector, and how?

[Cardoso] The public sector controls a series of mechanisms such as tariffs, the public servants' salaries, and the exchange rate. It will be made quite clear that we are not going to manipulate the exchange rate by establishing fixed exchange rates. That is not a market mechanism. It might even cause prices to drop at a certain moment but, immediately, if the market reacts negatively, it will create new limitations.

The public administration has great power to make decisions affecting important areas. Any mechanism used should help us persuade society about our intentions. Either society joins us, or we will conclude that it is not ready to march for stabilization.

[Negreiros] The question most commonly asked by those who criticize the program is: Do we have to put \$15 billion in the hands of the president or a minister in an election year?

[Cardoso] They will not do that. That is a misunderstanding of the problem. We do not make the decision on how to spend money. We are talking about a budget mechanism to prevent the lack of funds from affecting our spending program. We are not funding new programs or saying where we want the money spent. We are saying: In order to implement the spending approved by Congress we need an instrument giving us available resources so we do not have to print money. It is not a "purse" at the government's disposal. It has a two-year duration because the next government will need it too. It was created because there was not enough time to approve a tax reform bill, which should affect the state's major structures and public financing mechanism. The tax bill should be well thought out; it cannot be approved as a contingency bill. The proposal to create this fund does not have any electoral inspiration or patronage purpose. We proposed creating this fund with 15 percent of all allocations, parting from the principle that the resources already are assigned in the budget. This 15 percent will be in tax collection increases. This means that, in real terms, during 1994 no ministry, state, or municipality will have less than what it had in 1993.

What is collected on top of those needs will be spent on priorities defined by Congress. If Congress does not want this mechanism, I will accept another one. But will it be a tax increase?

[Negreiros] But why did you have to increase taxes, even if it was only symbolically?

[Cardoso] Because we could not balance the budget. It is necessary to send a signal to society showing that there is a cost to pay for a stable economy. But it is something temporary. We cannot create miracles.

[Negreiros] The Executive Branch had very strong political power in countries where the stabilization plan succeeded. The situation here is different. Do you think you will be able to get Congress to approve the needed measures?

[Cardoso] Brazil is living a decisive moment. The conditions for a jump forward are present. I, as the finance minister, have the obligation to propose a plan and assure people that the jump will not be in the dark. I know the responsibility is no longer mine. I said how the situation can be solved and I will give more details later, always showing the way to go. If Congress has different ideas, it can present them, but without saying: "The government does not know where to go." We know where we want to go. Our path will take us to a stable economic system. Where are all those who were constantly calling for an end to inflation? We reversed the situation. It is all right to criticize, but what are the alternatives? To end democracy? We do not want that. This government has taken upon itself the historic responsibility of implementing a stabilization plan. It might be unpopular but I am not concerned about popularity. Those who are concerned with popularity will only upset the country. We must do what is necessary. The people will support the plan because quite often they are more sensitive than those who speak in their name. We will go on television to explain and try to convince the people. I feel they will perceive that we are sincere.

[Negreiros] It is being said that a finance minister cannot be a presidential candidate if inflation remains high, but that he might not resist the temptation if inflation drops.

[Cardoso] I do not know because we have not had a low inflation rate in Brazil for a long time. I repeat: I am not concerned with the presidential race. Historic circumstances placed me at the head of a ministry that I never wanted. I must carry the burden to the very end the way I know best. I do not think the Finance Ministry is the best path to popularity. It could be that I might have to stay in the post to guarantee an opportunity for the program. I will stay if that is the price. I am not ready to become a candidate. I have said that everywhere. I did not sign a single state debt guarantee.

[Negreiros] What are your deadlines? Do you need the laws that reduce the budget to be approved this year?

[Cardoso] No. As soon as we submit the draft budget to Congress, even if it is not approved, one-twelfth of it is implemented. This budget is enforced right at the beginning of 1994.

[Negreiros] What about the amendment blocking 15 percent of the funds tied to certain projects?

[Cardoso] We need it to balance our budget. The ideal thing would be for it to be approved immediately, but this is subject to the constitutional revision. I have discussed the possibility of approving it separately with leaders of political parties and the coordinator of the constitutional revision committee.

[Negreiros] What quorum is necessary to approve it? An absolute majority obtained in a single round of votes?

[Cardoso] Yes, yes. That is what the regulations say but I believe it will be examined within the framework of the constitutional revision, but it all depends on what Congress decides. The sooner it is approved the better. But if it is not approved in December, it may be in January because this does not affect the annuities. It does not refer to a tax increase but rather the tax percentages and the distribution of government resources.

[Negreiros] Is all this linked to the IMF? If the budget is not approved, will the agreement with the IMF not materialize and the document signed here lose its validity?

[Cardoso] We have reached a decision regarding the banks. There are no more doubts between Brazil and its creditors, and the debt has been reduced within the framework of the Brady Plan. The next thing we need is for the U.S. Government to issue its Treasury bonds that will endorse the agreement. But in order to issue these bonds they want the IMF's opinion.

Sao Paulo Governor Supports Plan

PY0112234293 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso has received Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho's support to implement his new economic measures.

The governor said the measures will not hurt states and municipalities, while Finance Minister Cardoso guaranteed that the plan will not touch salary policies.

Colombia

Escobar Accuses Cali Cartel Head of Involvement in Pepes

PA0112191493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Dec 93

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] A letter sent by Pablo Escobar to the Pepes [Persecuted by Pablo Escobar] was disclosed just a few minutes ago. In the letter the drug lord accuses the group of carrying out attacks on his property over the past days. The letter is addressed directly to Cali Cartel chief Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, whom Escobar identifies as a member of the Pepes. This is the first time since the Pepes emerged that Pablo Escobar has addressed them directly.

Andres Pastrana on Cousin's Arrest, Money Laundering

PA0212024993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Live report by Azucena Lievano; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] [Lievano] Good evening. I am at Andres Pastrana's political campaign headquarters. Pastrana will personally read a communique to explain the situation regarding his cousin, who has been arrested on money-laundering charges in Miami.

[Pastrana] Before going to the questions and answers segment, I would like to read my statement on the situation. The press chief will give you copy of this statement later. It reads:

I have called this news conference to refer to an incident that I—in my entire, wholesome, public life—never imagined would happen. The purpose of this conference is to deny, however, the false information disseminated about me by an international news agency.

The report says that an Argentine judge who heads the ongoing legal case against Gustavo Pastrana Gomez on money-laundering charges has linked me to the case, because allegedly Pastrana Gomez hinted that he was getting money to finance my probable political campaign. The court itself has issued an official statement denying such a preposterous charge.

Never in my political career or personal actions have I received illegal money from anyone in my country. I state this without hesitation, because I know that none of my 33 million fellow citizens can contradict me. I have not done such a thing in Colombia, and to think that I would do so in a foreign country is outrageously absurd.

I reiterate that it hurts me to be forced to call this news conference on an issue that is so distant from my field of activities and concerns. I am open to your questions.

[Lievano] This was Andres Pastrana's communique on the situation that has arisen in the past hours. We go back to our studios now.

Ecuador

Armed Forces Tasked With Monitoring School Attendance

PA0112153393 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Defense Minister General Jose Gallardo announced that as of today the Armed Forces will monitor the school attendance of teachers and students. Soldiers will be deployed throughout the country to monitor school attendance. Gen. Gallardo called on all teachers to consider the harm being done to all children, especially the poor.

President Sixto Duran-Ballen officially announced that teachers who fail to show up for class for three consecutive days will be definitively dismissed and will not be allowed to work at any other school as teachers. He was very clear when he stated that anyone who abandons his job for three days does so because he or she does not want to work.

Paraguay

Joint Communique on Pilcomayo River Signed With Bolivia

PY0112172093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 Dec 93 p 20

[Text] In a joint communique, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Diogenes Martinez and Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar Quiroga yesterday confirmed a common and unswerving stance on the equitable use of Pilcomayo River waters by all the riverside countries, respecting the Pilcomayo River's natural channel.

In the communique, signed yesterday at the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry, the two foreign ministers also expressed their concern over the dangers for and concrete damage to the Pilcomayo River basin's environment that a change in the river channel would entail.

By exchanging notes the two foreign ministers also signed an agreement to form a Paraguayan-Bolivian Consular Cooperation Group, whose goal will be to review efficient institutional mechanisms to cooperate in the struggle against the illegal trade in narcotics and psychotropic substances as well as illegal car trafficking.

This group will study standards for regulating the traffic of people, vehicles, and merchandise at border areas, and increase tourist, cultural, sports, and communications exchanges. The group will coordinate joint actions for the promotion of border integration and zonal regional development.

Finally, the two foreign ministers committed themselves to enhancing regional health care, sanitary education, and agriculture.

The Bolivian foreign minister pointed out that Bolivia, along with Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador, is currently an inseparable member of the Andean Pact. The Bolivian minister emphasized: "Bolivia is interested in Mercosur [Common Market of the South], its possibilities, and its potentials. We nevertheless are working to find mechanisms or ways in which we may approach a broader integration than with the various current processes."

The Bolivian foreign minister pointed out that the Urupabol [Permanent Joint Commission of Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia] group, implemented by the Uruguayan, Paraguayan, and Bolivian foreign ministers, represents a bridge between these two integration processes, namely the Andean Pact and Mercosur, which must seek mechanisms for increased approaches and cooperation.

In the name of the Paraguayan Government, Foreign Minister Diogenes Martinez yesterday decorated his Bolivian counterpart with the National Order of Merit in the grade of Extraordinary Grand Cross. The ceremony was held at noon yesterday at the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry, with the presence of ambassadors accredited to the Paraguayan Government.

Official Notes Difficulties in Tracking Money Laundering

PY0112140193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
1 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] General David Marcial Samaniego, retired—the Vice Minister of Defense—yesterday confirmed that the investigation into the "laundering of dollars" in Paraguay began when he was heading the National Antidrug Secretariat. He said it is difficult to find evidence, because those who are involved very carefully eliminate all the indications that may help to track the origin of their money or their operations. He said, however, that financial enterprises, exchanges, and hotel enterprises that operate with large amounts of money must be controlled, because they might be used for "cleaning" drug money.

Samaniego assured that people with huge economic assets who are involved in "money laundering" usually pay all their taxes, hindering investigations that might be made to detect the origin of their money.

"We cannot go deeper into the investigations because we have to operate within the law. This means that we can only contact the Finance Ministry and the tax collecting offices to find out whether they are paying their taxes. But this does not allow us to ascertain whether their operations are done with drug trafficking money. The matter is sensitive and complex," Samaniego said, referring to the control mechanisms that the authorities can use to fight dollar laundering.

He emphasized, however, that there are very costly and luxurious hotel enterprises that do not normally work very much. "One can thus conclude that they cannot

earn much, and this raises suspicions as to what they do to operate with such amounts of money. Yet that sole evidence is not enough to take legal action against them," he said, adding that he could not report the name of the hotels.

Arriving Artists

Asked whether drug traffickers might bring famous artists to our country for dollar laundering purposes, Samaniego gave a positive reply. "One can come to that conclusion whenever large sums of money are involved, but the possibility that such business is done in good faith should not be ruled out. Money launderers resort to simply anything to get the job done," he said.

He said that drug traffickers can—through several methods—provide funds to show business entrepreneurs, so that they can bring foreign musical shows to our country. "Money launderers are happy when the money is returned to them, because through this system they introduce clean money into the financial market. Despite the fact that in many cases they lose thousands of dollars, the deal is fine, considering that the operation is the result of the sale of 2 or 3 kg of cocaine," he said. "Laundering 80 percent of their money provides them substantial earnings," he said.

Coordination With the United States

Samaniego was also asked why the investigations into drug trafficking and money laundering are not going any deeper. He replied that a criminal organization involved in such kinds of actions cannot be dismantled without precise information.

"We exchanged information with the U.S. Embassy to coordinate our work, but our achievements would have been greater if we had had precise information," he added.

Money-Laundering Agreement Signed With United States

PY0112142293 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish
1 Dec 93 p 4

[Text] As a demonstration of its decision to participate in the fight against drug trafficking and related crimes, the government has accepted a commitment to pay the costs for obtaining the information our country must provide. Foreign Minister Diogenes Martinez said, in referring to the agreement on the exchange of financial information on the laundering of dollars that was signed on 30 November between the United States and Paraguay.

Martinez stated that the idea of implementing an agreement of this type has been on the books since August 1993, but there were certain differences regarding who would pick up the tab for the cost of the information exchange on money transactions that could be related to the laundering of currencies.

The foreign minister explained that the U.S. Government was against the idea that the country requesting the information should pay the costs, and added that Paraguay had finally accepted the commitment.

Martinez denied, as did U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman, that the signing of the agreement was a consequence of the disagreement between the government and the U.S. ambassador over the national antidrug program.

It seems that this time Paraguay had to demonstrate the political will to pay for the information that the Americans need.

Interior Minister Vows To Fight Money Laundering

*PY0112162793 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
1 Dec 93 p 5*

[Text] At Government House yesterday, Interior Minister Carlos Podesta said that the government will fight the corruption represented by the laundering of dollars in Paraguay. He added that the government will not withhold information or protect anyone involved in the "infamous business." He admitted, however, that investigations have so far been unsuccessful.

Podesta emphasized that the government of engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy is investigating the charges that have been raised, and that it will not protect anyone or withhold any information on the subject. "We are looking into the subject (money laundering). We have tracked it, we have watched it, since long before these charges were raised. The charges were raised rather informally. The people can rest assured that the government will neither withhold information nor protect anyone in this infamous business," he added.

Immediately thereafter, however, he said they do not yet have enough information, and that this is why the fight against drug trafficking money has so far been unsuccessful.

People have been more concerned about the laundering of dollars in Paraguay after U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman charged that "high echelons" were protecting criminals in Paraguay. The ambassador also expressed his disagreement with replacements within the Armed Forces.

The president rapidly responded to Glassman's words by saying that in Paraguay "orders are issued by Wasmosy, not by Glassman." In turn, many Colorado Party lawmakers considered that the remarks by the U.S. diplomat entailed meddling with Paraguayan domestic affairs. They have even asked the Chamber of Deputies to issue a statement against the intervention of foreign ambassadors.

Asked whether money is actually laundered in Paraguay, Podesta said there are people who believe so. "There are people who believe so. If we had had evidence, our

action would have been more effective. Some people believe that the dirty money coming from drug trafficking is laundered all over the world, and that our country is no exception," he said.

He added that other people "claim that if such operations are really made, they would not be significant enough to be easily detected. We have in any case the obligation to investigate. We are doing so, and we will continue to do so."

Podesta said that the National Police can detect the people who are involved in this crime, and that they also have the support of an international information network which seeks to fight and eradicate dollar laundering.

Article Criticizes 'Disturbing' Governmental Tax System

PY0112191293 Asuncion BALANCE FINANCIERO in Spanish October 93 pp 18, 20

[Article by Sergio Acosta Aguirre: "What Game Is Wasmosy Playing?"]

[Text] The tax system of the current government administration is rather disturbing, to the point that international organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF have already made statements urging the government to put an end to the growing central bank deficit by improving tax revenues.

This implies that the little game to which Enzo Debernardi [former finance minister] resorted in 1989—the inclusion into the public budget of resources resulting from the royalties paid by Itaipu, in an effort to offset the great imbalance existing between state income and expenditures—has already gone beyond our borders, and is no longer pleasing the financial organizations.

In fact, it has never been a correct measure, but acceptable as a transitional emergency measure. But since that time when the Central Bank and the public treasury went bankrupt as a consequence of the irrational plundering by Stroessner's cronies, a number of years have gone by, and many variables have changed.

The Central Bank reserves have thus reached unprecedented levels from the point of view of bank statistics.

Likewise, there was sufficient time to implement a tax reform, which was done last year. The fact that the new tax law did not include a personal income tax as a main instrument for increasing revenues is something that has nothing to do with the time problem. There was therefore sufficient opportunity to reorganize, like the country's foreign reserves, the internal reserves administered by the Finance Ministry.

The statement by the "gringos" favoring speedy corrections in handling the tax issue is important, although frankly speaking there is no need for them to come and

teach Paraguayan authorities the steps they must follow. We insist it is not a technical matter, but a political one.

And it is here that Wasmosy's position really puzzles, because it is difficult to believe that the president would like to sabotage himself in attempting to establish a basis for macroeconomic destabilization, a mistake that would aggravate the social crisis and would sooner or later affect his continuing as head of government.

It is impossible to accept that a president who has given signs of maturity in the treatment of controversial issues such as the Labor Code, the Penal Code, military affiliation to political parties, and other sensitive state matters, will not prevent the fiscal balance from being undermined because of the mistaken idea of taking the tax issue as "spoils of war" from the 15 August 1993 elections.

The budget balance, repeatedly stressed by Wasmosy in his presidential campaign, is not just another promise that can be forgotten the following day, after conquering the desired post. It is an essential issue for achieving government goals, even for those who intend to profit from the public investments predicted for the current presidential term.

The facts recorded so far in the fiscal field are thus not right, especially those having to do with the following: the designation of an enterprise tax adviser as the revenues under secretary (we cannot forget the accusations of tax evasion made against Wasmosy by his adversaries during the presidential campaign); the designation of a man who shows more political than professional concerns as revenues director; preannounced reforms in the tax regime with the parallel suspension of taxpayer control, etc.

The results of these contradictions are clear: Only two months before the end of the year, there is much concern in the sectors of the Finance Ministry in charge of paying final salaries and bonuses to the entire public sector. But there is no mention of the need to have resources to pay state suppliers and contractors, as well as the country's foreign creditors.

In 10 months the government had to divert 77 billion guaranies from the royalties earned from Itaipu (budgeted for investments and foreign debt payment) to cover the deficit in tax revenues and submit for public consideration what is apparently a balanced budget.

In sum, the fiscal balance cannot be sacrificed as part of the political bills to be paid by the chief of state, and this must be understood by the power groups. Either everyone cooperates, or no one receives any benefit. It is that simple.

Vice Defense Minister Places Post at Minister's Disposal

*PY0112165493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
24 Nov 93 p 7*

[Excerpt] Brigadier General Marcial David Samaniego yesterday presented a note to Defense Minister Dr. Hugo Estigarribia, placing his post as vice defense minister at the minister's disposal. Samaniego took this step after learning a military promotions board's decision to remove him from active duty in the Armed Forces.

Samaniego explained that he had been commissioned by the commander in chief's office to occupy the post of vice defense minister, but that it was appropriate to place his post at the defense minister's disposal because his situation was different from that prevailing when he was appointed to this post.

Samaniego emphasized that the post of vice defense minister was no longer exclusively to be held by an Army general, and that following the decree reorganizing the cadre of Armed Forces generals and the duties to be exclusively discharged by them, a civilian might also head the defense undersecretariat.

Samaniego stressed: "I presented the note to allow Minister Estigarribia to be able to decide what he believes is best."

Defense Ministry officials indicated that Gen. Samaniego might remain in his post despite the fact that there are reliable reports that Dr. Anibal Pangrazio would be appointed to occupy this post soon. [passage omitted]

Chamber Overturns Veto of Military Law Abolishment

*PY0112180193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
24 Nov 93 p 2*

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies yesterday confirmed the abolishment of Law No. 216 on the organization of the Armed Forces. After a long debate, the lower house opposition bloc imposed its majority (48 to 23 votes) in rejecting the presidential veto of the bill abolishing Law No. 216, reestablishing the validity, with some amendments, of Military Law No. 74/91. This issue will now be discussed by the Senate. The ruling party's deputies pointed out that they might file an action of unconstitutionality if the Senate also confirms the abolishment.

After various postponements and in a special session, the lower house yesterday discussed and voted on the controversial Executive Branch's veto of the bill abolishing Military Law No. 216. A proposal raised by government party Deputy Conrado Pappalardo to again postpone the discussion of this issue was unsuccessful. [passage omitted]

Peru

Opposition Demands Modifications in New Constitution

PY0112170993 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 15 Nov 93 p A6

[Text] Representatives from several opposition parties yesterday said they would reiterate their request for the full cabinet to report to the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] to debate on the introduction of some modifications into the text of the Constitution, especially in areas like job stability and reelection.

They also warned that if their request is not supported by New Majority-Change 90 members, they will gather 1 million signatures in order to formally ask Congress to reform the new Constitution.

This position is the immediate answer to the remarks made yesterday by government lawmaker Carlos Ferrero Costa, who despite the fact that the debate on the request is still pending, rejected it, explaining that the results of the 31 October referendum in no way compel cabinet members to report to the CCD.

A Bad Interlocutor

In this regard, Christin Popular Party member Antero Flores Araoz said that the attitude of Ferrero has made the presence of cabinet members in Congress even more necessary.

"Ferrero has shown that the majority bloc is not a good interlocutor. The tight victory in the referendum should remind government lawmakers that they must listen to those who represented the 'no vote.' Despite this, and instead of considering the opposition's initiative, they reject it, adopting inappropriate attitude, like that of Ferrero, who is known for his lack of equanimity, prudence, and moderation," he said.

People's Mobilization

Meanwhile, MDI [Democratic Left movement] lawmaker Julio Castro Gomez said that Ferrero cannot reject a request on which debate has not yet concluded.

He recalled that the opposition request for the cabinet to report to the CCD was considered during the plenary session on Friday, and that it was not voted on. He explained that the executive board will meet, possibly today or tomorrow, to set the date for continuation of the debate.

"Our proposal seeks a constitutional democratic agreement through which congressmen and ministers may study the introduction of several modifications into the Constitution, before it is approved, especially in areas like job stability, decentralization, economic rights, and others."

Castro added that the opposition will insist on its request, noting that if it is rejected, they will gather 1 million signatures in order to ask the CCD to make the requested reform.

Policemen Sanctioned, Discharged in 'Moralization' Campaign

PY0112142993 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 15 Nov 93 p A4

[Text] Within the framework of a moralization policy within the Peruvian National Police (PNP), 300 PNP policemen have received disciplinary sanctions during the first six months of this year.

Of the 300 PNP policemen, 79 were discharged because they were found guilty of various crimes, including maladministration of justice, dishonorable discharge of duties, embezzlement, immorality, blackmailing, and extortion.

The PNP high command also ordered that another 74 policemen, allegedly involved in various crimes, be placed on an availability list so as to have them investigated by the PNP inspector's office.

The 79 policemen discharged between January and June are thus joining the 1,700 policemen discharged between 1990 and 1992. The policy of purging the forces of order has been implemented within the moralization process pursued by the government in all state institutions. Five officers and 33 NCO's had been discharged as of April for having committing repeated violations that smeared the PNP's image.

In 1992, 58 officers and 915 NCO's and experts were discharged. In many cases they were found guilty of having committing various outrages and human rights violations. The PNP high command also issued awards and certificates to those who had outstanding performances in the struggle against common and subversive crimes.

The latter group includes 70 policemen who contributed to disrupting terrorist and drug trafficking organizations. Most of them were promoted to a higher rank.

Uruguay

Lacalle on Regional Integration Process

PY0112121593 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 21 Nov 93 pp 1, 14

[Text] The commercial relationship between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay may result in a "hybrid" product, "in something that may not have a name," combining the characteristics of a common market with those of a free trade zone, said President Luis Alberto Lacalle during a news conference granted to foreign journalists.

The president also said that he believes that before thinking about a relationship with the North American Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico, "the important thing is to consolidate what we have at hand (because) it will take one or two generations to integrate this region."

Consequently, Lacalle said it is better that "the relationship with other regions be done by groups of countries—not individual countries, but in organized groups of countries."

Lacalle said that the characteristics that the subregional integration process in the Southern Cone may acquire are tied to the "crucial subject" of the Common External Tariff (AEC), because the type of commercial partnership adopted among the four countries is subject to the decision taken in this regard, "and the result is probably a bit of everything (free trade zone or common market), which is most reasonable."

He disclosed that the issue is currently being studied "by high-level experts, that is, the economy and foreign ministers," and therefore the summit—scheduled to be held in Colonia de Sacramento on 21 and 22 December—was postponed until a decision is taken regarding the AEC (which is the "key issue"), probably not until the second half of January.

In his statement, which has virtually already reached every corner of the planet, Lacalle warned that "the Common Market of the South has its own problems; we are now faced with the crucial problem of the AEC."

"If we can agree on an AEC we will have one type of partnership (common market), if not we will have another type of partnership (free trade zone)," stated Lacalle. This is the first time it has been admitted at a presidential level that the subregion may establish a commercial relationship other than a common market entailing the free circulation of goods, services, and other economic factors such as capital and human resources.

A free trade zone would imply a complete mutual elimination of tariffs for products in the subregion, without the need for an identical commercial and custom tariff policy regarding the rest of the world.

Lacalle added: "We have a vast range of opinions going from Brazil, which wants a relatively high AEC for some items; to Argentina, which wants a zero AEC; and Uruguay, which is inclined toward a zero tariff, although we consider it unrealistic (because) Brazil implements protectionist measures on certain goods."

In sum, Lacalle went on to say, "this is crucial, because if we do not agree on an AEC, we will have something that is not a common market, but rather a free trade zone."

The Uruguayan chief of state then went on to explain that "there is talk about a hybrid which, as in many human affairs, might be the ideal solution."

This alleged hybrid was described as "a common market for a significant list of merchandise, and another type of relationship for others; all these possibilities exist."

For this reason, due to this disagreement and the need for a definition, "we have suspended the December summit, because the subject is now being studied by experts at the highest level, that is, the economy and foreign ministers."

"We are waiting to see the results of the negotiations; there will probably be a bit of everything (free trade zone and common market) which is most reasonable," said Lacalle.

The president said that there were three variables: the amount, the common tariff, if there is one; the deadline for its implementation; and to which products it can be applied. The combination of these three variables may result in something that has no name. It may result in a transitory or definite combination called Mercosur (Common Market of the South), but it might have a bit of everything."

The flexibility that had been shown regarding the type of partnership the Southern Cone integration process would lead to became entirely inflexible when it came to establishing deadlines for the mutual elimination of tariffs. In Lacalle's opinion "they cannot be modified," although he admitted that "the four countries need to agree about this, and I cannot talk on behalf of the other countries, but in our opinion (the firmness of these deadlines) is what has given the process the sense of being real."

As for the possibility of Argentina or Brazil joining NAFTA, Lacalle said they cannot do so individually, "because the Asuncion Treaty (that created Mercosur) establishes that we all act united."

He said: "In any case, the possibility that the whole of Mercosur might establish a relationship with NAFTA could be discussed."

However, "I believe that each one should mind one's own business. It will take one or two generations to integrate this region (the Southern Cone)—we are made up of 200 million consumers, and are an important region of the world—and the important thing is to consolidate what we already have at hand."

The comparison between the two processes reveals great economic differences. While Mercosur is made up of barely 200 million inhabitants, NAFTA surpasses 360 million. NAFTA global internal GDP amounts to \$7 trillion, while Mercosur's does not reach \$450 billion. NAFTA exports surpass \$600 billion, while Mercosur's hardly amount to \$50 billion. NAFTA imports amount to \$730 billion, and Mercosur's \$40 billion.

In any case, Lacalle believes that "it is better that the relationship with other regions be done by groups of countries—not individual countries, but in organized groups of countries."

As for the date for the next Mercosur summit, he said: "We will see how negotiations go regarding the AEC, that is the key issue, and probably depending on that we will meet during the second half of January." UNCLAS 6S

Survey Ranks Possible Presidential Candidates

PY0112195393 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish
25 Nov 93 p 13

[Text] According to a survey by Multimedios & Marketing, "presidential hopefuls" Carlos Julio Pereyra, Julio Sanguinetti, and Tabare Vazquez lead, by a wide margin, the list of hopefuls in their respective parties.

The National Rocha Movement leader [Pereyra] heads the list of National Party hopefuls with 28.1 percent of the votes. Vice President Gonzalo Aguirre is second with 21.9 percent. One out of every four National Party voters did not answer while 18 percent of those consulted favor other candidates.

President Luis Alberto Lacalle was preferred by 6.3 percent of those questioned, even though he is not in the race for the 1994 presidential election.

We must take into account that the survey did not include possible Herreraist faction "presidential hopefuls" (Alberto Volonte, Juan Andres Ramirez, Juan Carlos Raffo), and the 6.3 percent support for Luis Alberto Lacalle can be assumed to represent support obtained by this officialist faction.

Sanguinetti by Far

Former President Julio Maria Sanguinetti heads the list of Colorado Party hopefuls. Almost six of every 10 Colorado Party voters support the Batlleist Forum candidate.

Jorge Battle obtained 17.3 percent of the votes and Jorge Pacheco 13.2 percent. They are almost even in the race for the November 1994 presidential election.

Only 6.6 percent of Colorado Party followers questioned supported other candidates, and only 5.1 percent of those questioned said they would not vote for any of those mentioned, perhaps because the pre-electoral scenery here is clearer than in other groups.

Vazquez First, Astori Second

Six of every 10 Broad Front [FA] followers said they would vote for current Montevideo Mayor Tabare Vazquez as presidential candidate, while one of every five FA followers prefer Senator Danilo Astori, the most important coalition legislator.

A total of 13.1 percent of those questioned from this group said they do not favor any candidate, while 1.5 percent proposed other candidates or the current FA president. Liber Seregni received only 4.4 percent of the votes.

Venezuela

Committee To Reform State Issues Message on Elections

PA0212020893 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 0029 GMT 2 Dec 93

["Special Message" issued by the Presidential Committee to Reform the State (COPRE) from the Central Information Office, read by Trino Marquez, COPRE president; from "The News" newscast]

[Text] Distinguished fellow citizens: The Presidential Committee to Reform the State, inspired by the desire to cooperate with Dr. Ramon J. Velasquez, president of the Republic, the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], and all of the nation's sectors so that the 5 December elections will be a memorable event for the democratic system, would like to transmit a message of optimism to Venezuelans and make the following proposals to the Venezuelan people.

We convoke the people to turn out massively and enthusiastically to vote, by virtue of the significance of these elections for the nation and for democracy. The peoples' vote is essential to reaffirm the democratic system, to strengthen our institutions, and to reform the state. Processes that are important to the nation, such as decentralization, the reform of the central administration, the transformation of judicial power, improvement of public services, and others of similar importance, can only be achieved within the framework of democracy. The peoples' vote is indispensable to continue such changes.

We ask the government to guarantee that the Republica Plan will function in a select manner, throughout the nation, so that citizens will have the facilities and protection that will permit them to vote without any obstacles and be able to witness the vote count.

We suggest that the CSE advise the public that, according to the organic electoral law, the vote-counting process is public and that whoever would like to may witness it. The CSE, clearly demonstrating its efficiency, must announce the vote tallies in a timely manner. We propose that the first official bulletin be transmitted early in the evening. The party poll representatives, witnesses, and electoral judges are urged to exercise their duties honestly and efficiently, because the voting tables are where integrity, openness, and legitimacy of the elections are determined.

COPRE invites the media to redouble their efforts to strive to maintain a climate of calmness demanded for the successful conclusion of the electoral event. The reports transmitted to the public will be a basic factor in maintaining calm and deliberation. We appeal to them not to issue any results or to project any trend, until such a time when the CSE authorizes the broadcasting of unofficial returns.

COPRE is sure that the other candidates, parties, and other organizations participating in the 5 December elections will abide strictly by the rules established in the organic electoral law and by the law on political parties, in those aspects dealing with the preservation of the citizens' peace and respect of the people's verdict.

We propose that the president-elect appeal to all of the country's sectors to secure a national agreement that will contain the principle orientations of the next government in all areas that require broad support; likewise, COPRE calls on the candidates who are not favored by the people's vote to offer their support to the president-elect to establish the necessary consensus demanded to solve the problems of the country and the grandeur of the country.

COPRE is convinced that if we assume these positions, we will all be contributing so that this electoral event will be a historic one that will demonstrate to the international community that we Venezuelans are promoting our changes and resolving our differences in a civilized manner, with the people's only legitimate tool, their vote. Thank you very much, fellow citizens.

President Caldera Interviewed

PA0112163993 Caracas Radio Caracas Television
Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Interview with Rafael Caldera, National Convergence presidential candidate, by Radio Caracas President Eladio Lares at the station studios; from "The Observer" newscast—live]

[Text] [Lares] Good evening. Thank you for being with us. Our guest is President Rafael Caldera. How are you, Mr. President?

[Caldera] How are you, Eladio? How are you doing in your new activities?

[Lares, laughs] Remembering old times, Mr. President. Sir, you are a man with many years of experience in politics. You are making and have made a big effort, and it is being well rewarded. The opinion polls constantly indicate that you are the favorite in relation to the other candidates. The country has changed. It is a different country from the way it was in 1968. We are six days away from the elections, and I would like to know how a man like you feels about the possibility of being president of the Republic again?

[Caldera] I feel a great responsibility, Eladio. I knew what I was doing when I got myself into this and am aware of the possibility—I dare say probability—of being president. I do not want to be overconfident like other candidates who say they will be the next Venezuelan president when the polls indicate that they have very low ratings. No, the polls have given me constant and repeated reasons to believe that the people prefer me. Of course that entails a great responsibility. But I came into this precisely because I feel the country is

going through a very serious situation. The country demands an honest, austere, and trustworthy government.

The first thing we must try to recover for Venezuela is trust. Venezuela has lost confidence in itself and in its leaders. This lack of confidence makes people react negatively to any favorable thing that is offered or undertaken. People immediately say: No, that is a lie. It is another false offer or position.

I know it is really going to be very hard. Of course, it is not a task for a single man. It is a task for a team, for a country. I will not be able to accomplish anything if the people do not trust me and make themselves aware of the situation I will have to confront. That is why I am very, very sincere when I talk to people. I do not offer them miracles. I am not a magician. I am not going to tell them that the situation will be resolved from one day to another just because they elected me. No, I offer them austere work, an unrelenting struggle against corruption, and a promise that I will strive seriously, constantly, and decidedly to restore security for them and their homes, the lack of which has caused so much distress.

[Lares] Many people, including people who accompany you in this run for the presidency, hold the opinion that a new Caldera was born in Congress on 4 February. Does that mean the new Caldera would not have arisen without the thwarted coup d'état? What do you think about the coup rumors, both before and after the elections, that are circulating these days?

[Caldera] Look, Eladio, let's talk about 4 February first. On 4 February, although I had not launched my candidacy or stated my interest in running for the presidency, the polls already presented me as the front-runner in the race. I was plus or minus a point in relation to the candidate who was running at the time.

Now, a new Caldera was not born on 4 February. On 4 February, a moment when the entire country was watching ongoing events with particularly acute awareness, I had the good fortune to say what an endless number of Venezuelans wanted to say. The same things were happening. The same coup d'état stories of the first years of the democracy. We were hearing the same speeches on the system, freedom, this, that, and the other. The people were no longer moved by them. What distressed me the most was that people did not rush out in large numbers to defend democracy on 4 February. That could not be ignored. It had to be explained. Why did it happen? It happened because people cannot be asked to sacrifice themselves for democracy and freedom if they do not have food and if no actions are being taken to make their lives more tolerable.

Events at the time confirmed my position because people were alert. The rapprochement began in the days of the labor law debates. We made a very strong effort with the labor law. The manner in which several economic leaders focused on the issue was totally absurd. They spent millions [currency not specified]. They paid

for pages in newspapers to paint a horror story about how the country would end up if the Caldera labor law was approved and things of that sort. This attitude prompted the working people to feel that somebody was defending them, and that somebody was me.

[Lares] President, what about those constant coup rumors flying around? Rumor has it that if President Caldera wins, there will be a coup a few days after the announcement.

[Caldera] Those rumors are undoubtedly started by groups that do not want elections; that is, they want the country to continue sliding down a cliff because they do not care if the country sinks. All they want is to present their balance sheets and win billions of bolívares. Now, those rumors are [word indistinct] with events that are really unexpected. No one is convinced that the blackout, which lasted several hours, was a freak accident.

[Lares] It happened several times.

[Caldera] Yes, everybody thinks it was a test to see what would happen and how people would react. The people behaved in an exemplary fashion. They were admirable. The people went out and walked blocks and blocks to get to their houses. The people were anxious and worried because they did not know what would happen next, but their attitude was [word indistinct], responsible, and serious.

That is exactly what will happen on 5 December. The people will go vote and will do so with a great deal of integrity. All attempts to scare them with reports such as you can get killed, there may be an attack, or there will be violence will only cause Venezuelans to react. I am convinced that many Venezuelans who had not thought of voting on 5 December are going to do so now. It is their response. I would almost venture to say...[pauses] I am going to mention a person who is the symbol of active electoral abstention: Domingo Alberto Rangel. [Lares chuckles] Even Domingo Alberto Rangel, if he is threatened and told that if he goes to vote he could be killed, is capable of going out to vote to respond as a Venezuelan.

[Lares] Hatred and discord among Venezuelans, which was previously nonexistent, occurs constantly at present. You pacified the guerrillas when you were president for the first time. We, the Venezuelan people, demand peace for the country. What is the difference between the past and present pacifications?

[Caldera] Twenty years have gone by. At that time the circumstances were adequate because the guerrillas had realized their military defeat. This defeat, however, did not entail their extinction. On the contrary, if things would have continued as they were, the guerrillas would have had to reorganize. Poor Colombia suffers the horrors of civil war. Fortunately guerrillas are no longer a threat in Venezuela. Some groups that never accepted pacification become active from time to time, but all

they can do is create unrest and wait for a chance to act. The country is disturbed and angry.

[Lares] There is hatred and discord.

[Caldera] I do not think there is hatred as such. There does exist, however, a sort of deep resentment that makes people think: Gosh, this ever worsening situation has been imposed on us. Yet these same people shamelessly enjoy this situation. That is why I am convinced that five years of a government like the present one will lead us to disaster. It would be difficult for the country to recover. The democratic system is in grave danger, but the country is not so desperate that it will leap in the dark. The country is afraid of violence. The country wants peace. This is the pledge I feel bound to make: social and even labor peace. I have told businessmen that I am the only one capable of negotiating labor peace because of all the political leaders I am the only one who deserves to be trusted by the working class. But this peace cannot be achieved by a leap in the dark. The people have not lost their bearings. I am eager and trusting. There is a sort of literary slogan going around that the country is not interested in the elections and that the country is cold, but it is not true. Go to one of the rallies and you will see people eager to vote. They want to believe in someone who can offer them sincerity, and that is precisely what I am striving for.

[Lares] Thanks, Mr. President.

Copei Candidate Alvarez Paz on Presidency Plans PA0112193793

[Editorial Report] Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 30 November, as part of the "Opinion in the Great Morning" program, broadcasts a 55-minute live interview with Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, presidential candidate for the Social Christian Party (Copei) by reporters Maripili Diaz Hernandez and Apolinar Martinez at the station's studios in Caracas.

After greeting Alvarez Paz and chatting informally about sports, Diaz mentions the recent lifting of parliamentary immunity for former President Jaime Lusinchi and Deputy Antonio Aranguren. She asks Alvarez Paz to comment on the Democratic Action Party's (AD) attitude in this matter, as AD chose not to participate in a meeting of the delegate commission which made the decision.

Alvarez Paz replies: "As far as I know—I am not a member of the delegate commission—AD was not present because former President Lusinchi was not granted an opportunity to speak to the delegate commission. As we all know, he recently underwent surgery and is still hospitalized. I understand that he asked that as a senator-for-life he should be given the chance to speak before the commission made a decision." Alvarez Paz adds that "it is dramatic that two former presidents of the Republic are on trial for similar crimes," noting that

this hurts not only AD but also the country's image abroad. He expresses his hope that the Supreme Court will issue a decision in this case as soon as possible, "without interference" and "in accordance with the law."

Martinez asks Alvarez Paz for his view on the country's situation, given the drop in oil prices. Alvarez Paz replies that he sees very difficult times ahead. He adds: Venezuela "must quickly develop other economic activities capable of generating a large income" while "supporting the Venezuelan petroleum sector in its expansion and diversification plans."

He notes: "We must completely restructure our fiscal system. This does not necessarily entail new or additional taxes; it means better organization and tax collection, as well as a complete modernization of the system. We must use all available resources; open up the financial system; encourage foreign investment; conceptualize good investment opportunities in our country that can be offered to the international community with guaranteed stability, clear rules, and of course within a political climate that will provide security and confidence, thus attracting foreign capital to our country." He notes that tourism can generate employment, "but in order to encourage tourism, we must improve the political climate."

Alvarez Paz points out that "throughout this electoral campaign I have not heard anyone in Venezuela say that if I win the election he or she would leave the country or take his or her money out. By the same token, I have not heard anyone say that my candidacy creates a lack of confidence or doubts among foreign investors who want to invest in Venezuela. To the contrary, all signals from abroad, from the international financial community, as well as from the national community and potential national investors, is that my candidacy generates stability and confidence." Furthermore, he adds, "I have not heard anyone say that if I win the election there might be violence or a coup in Venezuela."

In response to a question on the recently approved law on business assets, which has been protested by Fedecamaras (Federation of Chambers of Commerce), Alvarez Paz says: "Actually, they are not protesting the law but the hastiness with which it was approved." He adds: "I basically agree with this tax, as I believe the business sector must make direct and significant contributions toward strengthening the country's fiscal revenues."

Asked about his government's monetary and economic policy, Alvarez Paz says: "We must start by reducing the fiscal deficit," but the government "must make the biggest sacrifice, instead of just demanding sacrifices from the people" and should "reduce its expenses according to its income, multiplying its income without devaluing the currency or levying new taxes." He adds that "one way to do this is through privatization, which, with a well-organized program, could produce for this nation \$5.5 billion in the next two years."

Asked about jobs, high interest rates, difficulties in obtaining loans, and the thousands of bankrupt small businesses, Alvarez Paz says: "Small and medium-sized business need support. They are the great supplier of jobs and the basis of a stable and solid economy that can extend horizontally." He adds: "Of course, while interest rates remain where they are it will be impossible for small- and medium-sized businesses to develop. Big business will begin to suffer if we stay on this course." Alvarez Paz stresses that "political confidence is a very important ingredient for interest rates," citing as an example the period after 25 April when "interest rates dropped more than 10 points in one week."

Alvarez Paz continues, saying "we must end cheap politics" and "we must open the way for those who have knowledge, those who are prepared to govern, those who have been educated." He gives as an example "the 70,000 young people who studied abroad, those called the Ayacucho generation."

Asked about the basis for his confidence that he will win by a large margin, Alvarez Paz replies: "My candidacy began with very important support, with the broadest base of legitimacy ever enjoyed by any candidacy throughout the history of Venezuelan democracy. On 25 April, over 2 million fellow Venezuelans voted." He adds that whatever people cite as a reason, the bottom line is that "the great majority of Venezuelans voted for me, and I have the support of the leading national party." He says he has "a comfortable margin" of support from all levels of Venezuelan society. Alvarez Paz continues: "We have not offended anyone in this electoral campaign," and "we have invited everyone to discuss their programs, but they have systematically refused."

After some informal chat about Alvarez Paz's family, Martinez asks: "Yesterday on this program, Andres Velasquez denounced as an AD maneuver the rumor that they [AD supporters] would vote for Oswaldo Alvarez Paz to cripple his [Velasquez's] candidacy." Alvarez Paz replies jokingly: "That is indeed good news."

Interrupting, Diaz describes the maneuver as "an agreement between Copei and AD to stop the candidacy and divert votes toward Oswaldo Alvarez Paz." Martinez asks for comment. Alvarez Paz replies that this is news to him and adds: "I am surprised that Andres, who claims to be a democrat, is concerned about people voting for whoever they want." He says: "If the coupists, communists, socialists, and all these types, have chosen Andres Velasquez and Rafael Caldera as their candidates, then I feel proud to be the choice for freedom in these elections." He says that the "democracy we have now is not the democracy we want or the democracy we need."

Martinez asks whether all of Copei will support Oswaldo Alvarez Paz on 5 December, after noting that "all polls invariably show that Copei is the leading party in Venezuela." Alvarez Paz explains that Caldera recently

appeared in a paid television advertisement "making a sad plea for Copei votes." He says this has created a backlash against Caldera's efforts to "destroy Copei and finish off its legitimate candidate." After describing how Caldera "joined forces with the enemy, who also failed him" Alvarez Paz says that "what Caldera has done is wrong. He has not acted properly, he has not behaved properly toward Copei, me, his political family, or Venezuelan democracy." Alvarez Paz says: "I have sought the opportunity to debate him face-to-face, especially given current Venezuelan politics, so the country could know the truth about what happened between us. This would help the country decide which of us is best suited, physically, mentally, and in terms of our plans, to govern Venezuela for the next five years. He has completely avoided such a debate." He adds that "even for his own good Rafael Caldera should have supported my candidacy and strengthened his party's chances."

Alvarez Paz sums up by saying: "I want to use these last few minutes of the program to ask people to involve themselves now in what remains of the electoral campaign. Each person must decide for himself who to vote for. In my opinion the time has arrived to bury the ghosts of the past, finish off the hate professionals, and make way for the other Venezuela: the Venezuela that works, produces, studies, fights, and prepares itself, which is the Venezuela that must win on 5 December. There is indeed a way out."

NGD Presidential Candidate Cova Interviewed

PA0112215993

[Editorial Report] Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 30 November begins carrying a 30-minute live interview with Jose Antonio Cova, presidential candidate for the New Generation Movement, NGD, party, by Marcel Granier at the station's Caracas studios.

Granier begins by asking Cova what makes him think he can be president and questions the validity of Cova's reply to the effect that Cova's father, an intellectual, could have any bearing on the candidate's qualifications. Replying to Granier's question as to what he would do, Cova says: "I would immediately call for a national accord. I want to clarify that it would not be bureaucratic. This national accord would serve to seek nine or 10 basic points that would hold the key to the solution." Granier asks what these basic points would be. Cova replies: "First, a reduction in public spending." Granier interrupts and asks how public spending can be reduced when services have already collapsed. Cova answers: "Very simply. As president I would propose that bureaucracy be reduced by one-third."

Granier asks Cova about a previous assertion that he would dissolve Congress, which the Constitution does not allow. Cova says that he would not have to deal with this Congress and explained: "I would ask Congress—the same way Dr. Rafael Caldera has said—for a referendum, something that can be done in 30 days, to see

whether the country wants a Constituent Assembly." Cova replies to Granier's follow-up question on what would happen if Congress refused by saying: "If they do not agree it is because they are bad Venezuelans who do not want an agreement; instead, it means they would want to continue the usufruct they have been enjoying these past 35 years. The country is tired of these gentlemen in Congress, who have been there for five terms." The interview concludes with Cova stressing the points of similarity with Caldera's government platform.

FPI Presidential Candidate Ojeda Interview

PA0112230493

[Editorial Report] Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish at 1550 GMT on 30 November, during its "Opinion in the News" segment of its "The News" newscast, airs a 15-minute interview with General Nelson Ojeda Valenzuela, presidential candidate of the People's Independent Force, FPI, by Alfredo Palacios at the Caracas television studio.

Palacios' first question to Ojeda deals with the presidential candidates' failure to address the specific issues affecting the Venezuelan people, one of which is personal security. Palacios asks Ojeda how he would specifically deal with the problem. Ojeda, in response, deplors the situation; he says: "We must form a police apparatus because we lack one. Policemen have been used for personal or group interests. We must rescue the prestige of the police and dignify that profession. I propose the creation of a police career, the creation of a dignified, well-paid police force where men can feel proud of their work."

Palacios' next question broaches the number of policemen who should be hired, to which Ojeda says that a police coordination law is required to establish how many police positions may exist and to regulate their activities. "We do not have more policemen than we should," he said, "but they are placed in the wrong places and they are performing inappropriate duties." Ojeda adds: "I would establish a system in which the merits of the many good Venezuelans would be rewarded and acknowledged, and criminals, especially white collar criminals, would be punished."

Palacios then cites the inflation issue. He asks what specific steps Ojeda would take to deal with the problem. Ojeda states his opinion that the main problem is speculation. He says: "I will tackle speculation by establishing the cost price. The General Directorate of Industry and Commerce at the Development Ministry should become the great promoter of Venezuela's truth. It should guarantee consumers' rights. With the cost price we will know how much an article costs, and consumers will be able to defend themselves from unscrupulous merchants, and if a merchant earns too much, the state will be able to establish a tax on his profits." Ojeda denies that this is a form of price control. He said usury must be eradicated. "Businessmen and merchants will be allowed to make a profit. We all want

profits, but we must profit in a rational manner, not at the expense of the impoverished and hungry Venezuelan people."

Palacio then cites the fact that expert economists are saying that among the main causes of inflation is the fiscal deficit. Ojeda says: "I have looked on sadly as the people have been punished with a value-added tax, which is immoral and unfair. Taxes are good when they improve Venezuelans' standards of living, but a tax to cover up the fiscal hole of a spendthrift government is immoral." Ojeda states his favor for a reduction in fiscal spending instead of implementing a value-added tax or increasing fuel prices.

Palacio says that the value-added tax was implemented by the Velasquez administration, which is not a spendthrift government. He asks Ojeda how he would replace the value-added tax, to which Ojeda responds: "I would replace the value-added tax by reducing the state's size and by dealing with corruption." Palacios asks: "By firing government employees?" to which Ojeda responds that there is an excess of 500,000 government employees when "we need a work force of over 2 million qualified Venezuelans to build the country's future. I would place that half a million workers in the arts, crafts, and small- and medium-sized tourism industry." He goes on to say that he would not fire them; they would go of their own volition because "this is the moment of resignations."

Ojeda adds that employees who remain in the administration would receive higher salaries, their work conditions would improve, and they would have goals. "Government employees should know that they owe their jobs to society and that they must respond for their action."

Palacios then asks about gasoline prices. Ojeda says he would consider the issue. "I would not sell gasoline at international prices because salaries in Venezuela are not at that level," he says, adding that he does not intend to raise gasoline prices.

Regarding privatization, Ojeda says he would privatize institutions that are not essential to the country, such as the Guyana companies, "which, due to mismanagement and other problems I will not mention now, are facing extraordinarily huge deficits that are unbearable for the Venezuelan state."

Palacios then asks Ojeda if he is also running for a senatorial seat due to his doubts that he could win the presidential elections. Ojeda responds: "I am a serious man. I was made to work. I am speaking the truth. I cannot deceive the people. It is very difficult to win the Presidency because there are many candidates. I question those who go about claiming victory in an election that has not yet taken place. I have faith and I have not given up the hope that the Venezuelan people will make me president. I am convinced, however, that my hometown of Carabobo will make me its senator."

Palacios' final question is whether an Ojeda government would be authoritarian. Ojeda says: "It would be a

serious, fair, and lawful government. We will not resolve Venezuela's problems with humor [risitas] and negotiations, which have been the farce of Venezuelan politics. I will organize the country and lift Venezuela out of this crisis by creating a new society, by acknowledging the Venezuelan people's merits, by promoting talent and guaranteeing equal opportunities for all government employees, being respectful of people and deeply loving Venezuela. General Ojeda Valenzuela is a disciplined, very respectful man who will guarantee the state of law."

AD Presidential Candidate Fermin Interviewed

PA0212034193

[Editorial Report] Caracas Radio Caracas Television at 2300 GMT on 30 November carries a 55-minute live interview with Claudio Fermin, Democratic Action Party, AD, presidential candidate, by Marcel Granier at the station's studios in Caracas.

Granier begins by asking Fermin what he believes his chances are for winning the elections. Fermin replies that he believes he has a fair chance given the amount of undecided voters.

Granier then cites the fiscal deficit issue. Fermin says: "I have been saying all along that we have to increase petroleum production. If we increase our petroleum production, we will make a great deal of progress in changing the revenues' first variable." Replying to Granier's question on the generation of revenues, Fermin says: "I would like to tell the television viewers that many times the tax issue has been presented as if it were a pardon that the public official grants to the people as if the good candidates do not promise taxes and the bad candidates do. The first obligation of a political power is to give the state the capacity to respond."

Granier asks what would be his second priority in resolving the fiscal deficit. Fermin says: "The decentralization in this process is vital. We must transfer a number of responsibilities at municipal levels; this is how the service can be supplied cheaper. It is cheaper to contract them locally. The service can be inspected locally, thereby generating more community participation." Granier asks how to solve the problem generated by the increase in salaries of professionals who work in the government. Fermin said that a national agreement should be reached to reform the social benefits so that they are not retroactive.

Asked what a leader's role in society should be, Fermin says that a leader must "decide what things should be done to achieve progress in the country." He adds that a leader must fight to get the majority of the Venezuelan people to support a national agenda and implement it. Fermin criticizes "leaders who isolate themselves in their own agenda and do not share it with other people, which is what they call preserving political openings." Asked about the reasons for not having a military dictatorship in Venezuela, which could be more efficient and waste less time, Fermin says: "Dictatorships do not

interpret what the people's problems are. They impose what two or three individuals think should be done." Fermin adds that "Venezuelans should elect the person who offers to solve our problems according to our own criteria."

Granier asks Fermin what role AD will play in the future to deal with the Venezuelan people's impression that political parties just want to come to power to distribute state favors. Fermin answers by saying that society must work, and he explains the case of Carlos Andres Perez, against whom proceedings were initiated in May or June 1993. Fermin says enough time has gone by, and the courts have not yet announced if Perez is innocent or guilty. He says that AD will react and will continue to tell the country that it is a party consisting of honorable people.

Granier says those involved in cases of corruption are never punished, which is part of the Venezuelan people's frustration. Fermin answers by saying that very often people are not punished because the accusations against them turn out to be false, but the accusers never dare to take them back. Fermin insists in bringing up the case of Carlos Andres Perez by saying: "Increasingly, more people are making accusations against Carlos Andres Perez to gain popularity. It is a shortcut to being popular in this country." Fermin says a preliminary hearing against Perez should never have been initiated because he was not responsible for the discretionary funds; it was the interior minister. An absolute vacancy was declared, but the man is alive, not dead," Fermin says.

Asked why Venezuela is now a frustrated, indebted country, Fermin answers: "Why did previous governments allow the fiscal deficit to exist? The fiscal deficit is the biggest wart resulting from the accumulation of mistakes in which governments were afraid of labor unions and associations and in which political parties were afraid of being unpopular every five years. How is it possible for Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. to be going broke when there are demands for administrative honesty and rational management?" Fermin says the boldness "to adjust fuel prices" was not there. Asked if those same leaders will continue guiding AD, Fermin answers by saying he is not seeking the Presidency due to personal opportunities but because he has "the historic purpose of seeking different paths for the country."

Asked if he believes changes can be promoted by AD with its current leaders, Fermin says: "Change must be imposed. We have to fight for change, and one of the intelligent ways of fighting for change is to convince all AD leaders; those who do not share these criteria should be evaluated by the rank and file of the party and country." Asked if he will promote a debate within AD to evaluate what has been done, Fermin says that a national debate should be held in the entire country because as an AD member he believes in political parties and does not believe in anarchy.

Granier ends by asking if there will be a different AD government if Fermin is elected. Fermin replies: "It will be a completely different government, but it will have the support of its true genetic base, the support of the poorest sectors. I am not a communist or agitator. I do not believe in abolishing private property. I do not believe in class struggles; on the contrary, I believe in a concerted effort. I am a democrat, but I believe AD has a genesis that cannot be forgotten. We need to build a country with a permanent plan in mind," Fermin concludes.

Radical Cause Party Candidate Interviewed

PA3011152393 Caracas *Venezolana de Television*
Network in Spanish 1118 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Interview with Andres Velasquez, Venezuelan Radical Cause Party presidential candidate, with unidentified reporters during the "Opinion in the Great Morning" program; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] One topic I believe we should definitely discuss—as it has become spectacular news—is Pablo Medina's [secretary general of the Radical Cause Party] attitude and his confrontation with the defense minister; this could be a perturbing factor for the Radical Cause Party. How do you see this situation? Does he believe this is an isolated attitude, or is this a collective problem of the Radical Cause Party? What is your position?

[Reporter] And from the perspective that Pablo Medina is the party's secretary general.

[Velasquez] I believe that in Pablo Medina's case,—as you said and which is very important—there has been much speculation. Yesterday I was reading Jose Vicente Rangel's column—and I think he also commented on this during his program—and he said that in a democratic country that is involved in demystifying power this kind of conversation, confrontation, *tete-a-tete* took place between Pablo Medina and the defense minister, and neither one was disrespectful to the other. In that sense I believe there has been an exaggerated reaction, even from the government itself. After that incident, even the Council of Ministers, of which the defense minister forms part, signed a document supporting the minister. I think this is really an exaggeration. I also disclosed my point of view and thought it was not the proper occasion. Without discussing the exaggerations, I do not think this was the....

[Reporter, interrupting] That is on what I wanted to comment. During a ceremony meant to reaffirm democracy, to pay homage to the democratic institutions, which was attended by all of the candidates to the Presidency and representatives from all the sectors of the country.... [pauses] Furthermore, someone commented very positively on a hug Andres Velasquez gave Rafael Caldera, which conveyed a mutual respect. Don't you think that Pablo Medina's attitude was out of place at that moment?

[Velasquez] We should not talk only about Pablo; we should talk also about the defense minister.

Everyone blames Pablo, but I would like to say, to avoid any doubts, that there are some who could take this to say there are rifts between Pablo and Andres or something like that.

Regarding the solidarity of the charges leveled against Pablo Medina, there must be no doubt as to the solidarity of the Radical Cause Party and Andres Velasquez with Pablo Medina. It is really outrageous what they have tried to do to hurt my candidacy and the advance of the Radical Cause Party. Their actions did not work. Regarding this affair of the weapons, I do not know whether you have had the chance to see what the people's reaction has been.

This was undoubtedly a boomerang for our opponents that zipped back to them and hit them in the head. They tried to hurt us, but instead they caused an uproar and anger among the people, because everyone perfectly knows and the country still remembers when they presented Lieutenant Alvarez Bracamonte wearing a wig or something, with the hair dyed yellow, handcuffed, surrounded by a bunch of weapons, and wearing a t-shirt, like a common criminal.

Then, they had no compassion for his condition as a military man, to present him like that, dressed in rags, to the rest of the country. Now, they did have compassion and pressed his uniform very well and put all his decorations on it and took him to none other than the Military Court offices to stage a news conference for him, even with representatives of the international press.

It is easy to see the maneuvers, the dirty war fabrications, and in this sense I stated that I did not think that that was the proper place for this kind of discussion. I think, however, that both parties are guilty; in this case I will not speak only about what Medina did. And what about the minister? Did the minister stand still? Did no one see the minister trying to bounce his belly and that sort of thing? That really was something I had never seen. I am also talking about the minister; did the minister not participate? Was only Pablo involved in this scene? Did the minister not participate also?

So then, in this respect I have been trying to be.... [pauses] I have tried not to discuss this issue further. I do not get involved in discussions with the minister. By the way, I think there was newspaper commentary today about something I said in my speech yesterday in Bolivar State. I am going to explain this right away.

I was wrapping up my activities in San Felix, Bolivar State, and I did not make any reference to—and I want to explain this—the National Armed Forces [FAN] in my speech yesterday. I am taking advantage of this opportunity to explain it. I will be FAN commander in chief, and I require the fullest and most profound harmony with this institution. I deem it a fundamental institution right now to guarantee our democratic course

and our democratic tradition. My trust regarding the result of the elections lies with FAN. I am calling on the FAN not to be swayed, as there are people who are swaying them. There are some officers who stop and listen.

I want to say that one must be careful with any kind of provocation. There must be absolute calm, because Andres Velasquez is going to effect a reencounter of our institutions in this country. I think we have a major task to conduct within the FAN, meaning recovering its dignity, giving it the necessary self-esteem, implementing policies that prevent political parties from sticking their wicked, hairy hands in there to get military promotions. I never again want to see a FAN officer currying the favor of a politician in Congress to be included on a promotion list. Merits, service record, talent, love for the fatherland, and values will decide when an officer will be promoted and within the military institution, of course, and in agreement with the commander in chief, who is the president.

That is our view on FAN. I must tell the whole country that I am confident that there is no confrontation between the Radical Cause Party and Andres Velasquez and FAN. What does exist is the contrary, the more dignified of relations, the most respectful of relations. That is our relationship with FAN.

[Reporter] On this matter, I think it is very important to explain this thoroughly. If Andres Velasquez wins the elections, he will be the FAN commander in chief. Some have seen a real or imaginary difference or division between Andres Velasquez and the Venezuelan Army. This is so much so that certain Army sectors feel that Andres Velasquez' closeness to the groups that rose against the Constitution and FAN creates uneasiness within FAN. As Andres Velasquez said, if he won he will be commander in chief and would have to lean on FAN as a whole. The speculation that Velasquez is too close to the rebels who rose against the institutions and FAN has created that uneasiness.

[Velasquez] I have constantly referred to this. I am not moved by ill-feelings or revenge. I think the country is now seeking harmony, peace, and a national reencounter among all its people, I would say, between civilians and civilians, between military and military, between civilians and military. I think we must base our actions on that position of national harmony. That is my goal. When I said—and I want to reaffirm it before the millions of people who are watching this signal—that I have acquired a commitment with the country everywhere I go and in all of the forums in which I appear. I have said that I will release the soldiers arrested on 4 February. I have said it very clearly. Nobody can think Andres Velasquez will do it with another purpose. The purpose is clear, and I have been stating it publicly. The goal is to close the fissures that may exist in FAN. It is clear that differences of opinion exist. There are things that are not fully there.... [pauses] They do not allow us to say we have a unified FAN.

There are those who participated in the 4 February and the 27 February [month as heard] uprisings, those who did not participate but who were somewhat supportive of them as a result of the deformations our democracy has suffered and those who felt happy with the positions adopted by the current defense minister. There are those who agreed with him within the Armed Forces and those who disagreed with him within the Army or the Air Force. I do not think that the minister represents the entire institution. There are contradicting views within the Armed Forces. Everyone knows about it; consequently, my intention is to reunite the Armed Forces just as I want to reunite all Venezuelans in harmony to make the big effort to rebuild the country. I will ask the Armed Forces to participate in this national reconstruction effort. Many times the armed forces are viewed as the military component that guarantees territorial integrity, sovereignty, and so forth. There is professional talent there. There are university graduates who have not been specifically invited to participate in this effort. I want to invite them to participate in this great process. This is our endeavor: to reunify our FAN as there are some fissures within it, and it will be the responsibility of the government over which I will preside to do it.

Velasquez Rules Out Coup Suspending Elections

PA0212042093 Paris AFP in Spanish 1638 GMT
1 Dec 93

[Text] Caracas, 1 Dec (AFP)—Andres Velasquez, presidential candidate of the workers' Radical Cause Party, ruled out the possibility of a coup suspending the elections in Venezuela on 5 December. He also announced that his organization will take to the streets if he is deprived of his victory. Velasquez holds a second or third place in voters' preference, according to preelectional polls.

Approximately two months ago, Velasquez and other Radical Cause leaders reported the possibility of a military coup thwarting the presidential and parliamentary elections. During a news conference with foreign correspondents this Wednesday, Velasquez said, however, that "this danger no longer exists. I announced that a plot was afoot. At the time, the danger existed, but it has since disappeared," Velasquez said.

He added that the Venezuelan Armed Forces "are not the same as in 1952," when General Marcos Perez Jimenez' dictatorship started. According to the Radical Cause candidate, the Venezuelan Armed Forces have shown that they support the democratic regime, despite last year's two coup attempts.

Referring to those coup attempts, Velasquez reported that he would release the officers involved in those actions if he is elected president because "I want to overcome any differences or schisms in the Armed Forces." The politician said, however, that the release of the coupist officers would not imply their reentry into the Armed Forces and added that the possible pardons or stay of proceedings would have to be studied "case by

case." Approximately 300 officers and noncommissioned officers are in jail for their involvement in the 4 February and 27 November 1992 coup attempts, and 100 more took refuge in Peru.

Velasquez also talked about the possibility of his winning the elections and that other political forces might not accept his victory. He said: "If they attempt to seize our victory, we will defend it firmly as we have done on other occasions. I have announced that I will accept someone else's victory even if it is only by one vote. What worries me is that none of the other candidates has said the same," the Radical Cause candidate stated.

The Radical Cause Party came in fifth in the past elections and obtained 1.7 percent of the votes. It cannot have representatives at the voting tables, a privilege reserved only for the three main parties. Approximately 40,000 Radical Cause followers will supervise the electoral process, although they have no decisionmaking rights on questionable votes.

Armed Forces Reinforce Vigilance as Election Approaches

PA3011231293 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish
29 Nov 93 p 13

[Report by Jose Ramon Diaz]

[Text] At the instruction of higher level authorities and because 5 December, the scheduled date for the presidential election, is drawing near, beginning today the National Armed Forces [FAN] will reinforce vigilance on the borders. Additionally, more than 90,000 Army, Air Force, National Guard, and Navy troops will be confined to quarters 48 hours prior to election day, it was reported at Fort Tiuna on 28 November.

The sources say that border patrol is a normal duty of the FAN, the sole responsibility of which is conducting joint military operations in defending territory and sovereignty, defense that grows increasingly relevant on this occasion as a national event, the election for president, will soon be held.

The Joint Task Forces, under FAN's joint command and headed by Brigadier General Fernan Barroso Fuenmayor, have already drawn up strategic plans for any contingencies. Task forces at Fort Sorocaima in Guardalito, Apure State, and at El Guayabo, Zulia State, on Lake Maracaibo's southeastern shore, are ready to combat subversion and irregulars that operate in the border area.

As for the National Guard, it has been reported by the General Command that the High Command, headed by Division Gen. Pedro Jose Romero Farias has initiated a series of visits to border garrisons on the Meta River and the geodesical line at Apure, the operating area of Regional Command 6.

The sources added that the reinforcement of vigilance in border areas has attracted the attention of top military authorities to the posts and garrisons of all of border forces.

Finally, authorities said that more than 90,000 troops will be confined to quarters 48 hours before the presidential election.

Justice Court Summons Perez To Appear on 7 Dec

PA0112151393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 29 Nov 93

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Justice Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, announced during a news conference that the court has summoned former President Carlos Andres Perez to appear on 7 December. Rodriguez Corro also referred to an article published by a local daily stating that a copy of the questions to be presented to former President Perez had been obtained. Rodriguez Corro assured that no one except the judge

who wrote the questions knows their contents as they are in his own handwriting. Here is what Rodriguez Corro said:

[Begin Gonzalez Corro recording] It is a regrettable situation and a very sensitive matter. First, the idea that someone could have had access to a questionnaire that has not yet been created and that this person could have made it public is very serious. Second, I believe it deceives the public to publish this, given the content of the news. I also think it is inconsiderate of the media. [end recording]

Justice Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro said today he would report to the Attorney General's Office the seizure at the [words indistinct] of some safeguards, reportedly obtained from documents on a case that is currently being tried. The justice asked that these accusations be transmitted to the jurisdictional institutions to order an investigation of the matter.

In addition, Justice Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro took the opportunity to call on all Venezuelans to participate in the 5 December elections by casting a ballot for their candidate. In his opinion, a vote is every citizen's most valuable weapon.